THE

SCOURGE;

OR,

MONTHLY EXPOSITOR

OF

IMPOSTURE AND FOLLY.

VOL. IV.

What! arm'd for virtue when I point the pen,
Brand the bold front of shameless guilty men,
Lash the proud gamester in his gilded car,
Bare the mean heart that lurks beneath a star;
Can there be wanting to defend her cause,
Lights of the church, or guardians of the laws!
Could pension'd Boileau lash in honest strain,
Follies and vices, e'en in Lewis' reign,
Could Laureat Dryden pimp and friar engage,
And neither Charles nor James be in a rage,
And *I* not strip the gilding of a knave,
Unplac'd, unpension'd, no man's tool or slave!
I will, or perish in the generous cause,
HEAR THIS, AND TREMBLE, YE WHO 'SCAPE THE LAWS.

POPE.

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY W. N. JONES,
THE PROPRIETOR,
NO. 5, NEWGATE-STREET;
And sold by all the Booksellers in the United Kingdom.

1812

Pub^d July 1st 1812 by M Jones No 5 Newgate Street

THE POLITICAL MEDLEY OR THINGS AS THEY WERE IN JUNE 1812.

G Cruikshank fec^t

THE SCOURGE.

JULY 1, 1812.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The letters of an exalted personage shall be inserted in our next number provided they be authenticated by the name of our correspondent.

The police of Surrey shall meet with early attention.

Memoirs of a Hertfordshire family; the Hypercritic; and the Pulpit, are deferred to our next number.

The negociators, a tragi-comedy, shall likewise appear at an early opportunity.

Our Albany correspondent is requested to name any hotel at which a card of address may be left for him.

We intend, in our next number, to make some remarks on the expedience of introducing Mr. Carstair's system of expeditious writing into the Lancasterian schools, and on the late extraordinary advertisement of Mr. Lancaster, of a new discovery, by which the produce of the earth may be more than doubled. As the lecture which Mr. Lancaster advertised has not been given, we presume that his friends have dissuaded him from a mode of puffing so derogatory to his character.

We are much indebted to the author of a "Caning for the White Sticks," of which we shall hereafter make ample use, and request his future correspondence.

The mistake of Thomas for Charles Taylor, we had corrected previous to the receipt of P.'s communication.

THE

SCOURGE.

JULY 1, 1812.

STATE INTRIGUES.

From the history of the negociation, contained in another part of the present number, our readers will be enabled to form an accurate estimate of the conduct pursued by the leaders of the respective parties, and of the motives by which that conduct has been influenced. Respecting the first negociation, the most remarkable circumstances are, Lord Harrowby's disavowal, on the part of himself and his colleagues, of every feeling of personal animosity towards Lord Wellesley, and the refutation of that disavowal by the publication of Lord Liverpool's letter. The reasons by which the ministry have since pretended to account for their personal objection to Lord Wellesley, are not less futile, than the disavowal of Lord Harrowby was disgraceful. According to the report of their speeches, they supposed the statements of Lord Wellesley respecting Mr. Perceval, to have been written by his lordship, and published beneath his sanction or by his authority; and upon this supposition, without any further investigation or inquiry, they entered into a mutual engagement, not to form any part of an administration of which Lord Wellesley should be a member. The incapacity of these men is in itself sufficiently afflicting; but their willingness to sacrifice the interest of their country to a supposition, is no unequivocal indication that incapacity is not their greatest disqualification for the offices of state.

It appears from the history of the second negociation, that notwithstanding Lords Grey and Grenville were offered five out of thirteen places in the cabinet, exclusive of those that might be occupied by themselves, Lord Moira, and Mr. Sheridan, making in all nine out of thirteen, they refused to acquiesce in the arrangement, notwithstanding they had in the first negociation condescended to enter into explanations expressly for the purpose of facilitating the preparatory steps to a coalition, and notwithstanding all the great outlines of national policy had been conceded to their views. If they meant by their reply to Lord Wellesley's authorized overture, that they would not accept of power in conjunction with any other party, or subject to any implied stipulations, their previous explanation on the policy of the peninsular war, and on catholic emancipation, were the productions of deliberate cajollery, intended only to prepare the way for an overture that they had previously determined to reject.

The third negociation exhibits a singular picture of arrogance on one side, and insincerity on the other. Lord Moira, aware that the household would resign on the accession of the opposition to power, assured the former that they should retain their places, or in other words, that the opposition should not come in, and then hastened with his overtures to the pre-excluded parties. Neither he nor Mr. Sheridan informed his political friends of the intention of the household to resign, and between the revenge of the one for former neglect, and the disgust of the other at their arrogance, the two great leaders of opposition were excluded from office.

Lords Grey and Grenville have endeavoured to advance a distinction between a preliminary question and a preliminary stipulation. Now what is a stipulation, but a question accompanied by conditions? If they had merely asked, for the sake of information, whether the household should remain, their enquiry would only have been a preliminary question; but unfortunately having received an answer to the question, their conduct was directed by

that answer, and it was declared that the retention of the household was an insurmountable barrier to their acceptance of office. Throughout the whole of the negociation they have outwitted themselves, and contributed to undeceive the public, and have been finally visited with that visible and weighty retribution, which in public affairs ought always to be the reward of arrogance, selfishness, and dishonesty.

THE REVIEWER, No. XIII.

Calamities of Authors, including some Enquiries respecting their Moral and Literary Characters, by the Author of Curiosities of Literature. 2 vols. 12mo. 16s. Murray. 1812.

The reputation of Mr. D'Israeli as a literary gossip, has been long and firmly established, nor will the present publication in any degree detract from the estimation in which he has been held, as a collector and retailer of interesting anecdotes. All the praise, however, to which he can advance a plausible claim, is confined to his talents as a selector; his knowledge of the common rules of English grammar is extremely imperfect: when he wishes to be eloquent he is turgid, and his sprightliness always degenerates into impertinence. It is impossible to contemplate the variety of matter introduced into these volumes, or to recur to the repeated evidences that have already been given to the public of Mr. D'Israeli's devotion to literature, without being astonished that in the course of extensive though desultory reading, he should not have become gradually and insensibly acquainted with the common laws of grammatical construction, and the usual forms of intelligible composition. We believe that the following list of ungrammatic, unintelligible, and

inelegant composition, is scarcely to be paralleled in the annals of Grub-street.

"I possess his (Henley's) lectures and orations; they are of a very different nature *than* they are imagined to be; literary topics treated with great perspicuity, &c. i. 167. His temper and genius would have been opened to us, *had not* the strange decision of Pratt and Clifford *withdrew* that full correspondence of his heart which he had carried on so many years. i. 81. Fifteen years were suffered to pass quietly away without the patriotic volcano giving even a distant rumbling of the sulphureous matter concealed beneath. i. 164. There is nothing real in ridicule; the more exquisite, the more it *exerts* the imagination. ii. 1. A style stamped in the heat of fancy, with all the life-touches of strong individuality, characterize these licentious wits. ii. 21. In the history of such a literary hero as Gabriel, the birth has ever been attended by *portents*. 23. In the peaceful walks of literature, we are startled at discovering genius, with the mind, and if we conceive the instrument it guides to be a stiletto with the hand of an assassin, irascible, vindictive, armed with discriminate satire, and never pardoning the merit of rival genius, but fastening on it throughout life, till in the moral retribution of human nature, these very passions, (*what passions?*) by their ungratified cravings have tended to annihilate the being who fostered them, 49. It is much less difficult than criminal to secure the modest man of learning, and to rack the modest man of genius through all *his* tremors in that bright vision of authorship sometimes indulged in the calm of *their* studies. 75.

"Unfortunately for the learned Hervey, his 'antique pen' *which* is strange in so polished a mind, and so curious a student, indulged a sharpness of invective which would have been peculiar to himself, had his adversary Nash not quite outdone him, 16. Their pamphlets foamed against each other, ib. The third calamity was the natural consequence of a tragic poet, having written a tragedy, who was a Scotch clergyman, i. 213. (In other words the tragedy was a Scotch clergyman.) Our children will long repeat his ode to the cuckoo, one of the most lovely poems in our language: Magical stanzas of picture melody and sentiment. i. 218. Was Pope really *sore* at the Zoilian style? i. 140. &c. &c.

As an example of perfection in the art of bad writing, we shall conclude our extracts by the following sentence:

"How could the mind that had devoted itself to the contemplation of master-pieces only to reward its industry by detailing to the public their human faculties, experience one power of amenity, one idea of grace, one generous impulse of sensibility. Dennis had so accustomed himself to asperity, and felt the irritation he gave, and he received, that without having left on record but the unauthenticated rumour of his having attempted to stab a man in the dark, we conceive the improbity of his heart from the malice of his pen; yet the whole may be attributed to a crooked judgment, a gross taste, and an erroneous persuasion that the Code of Genius was written by Aristotle, and expounded by Dennis."

Among the melancholy curiosities of the volume, the subjoined paper may be numbered.

The case of a man of letters of regular education, living by honest industry.

"During about twenty years while I was in constant or occasional attendance at the university of Edinburgh, I taught and assisted young persons at all periods in the course of education, from the alphabet to the highest branches of science and literature.

"I read a course of lectures on the law of nature, the law of nations, the Jewish, the Grecian, the Roman, and the Canon law, and then on the feudal law; and on the several forms of municipal jurisprudence established in modern Europe. I printed a syllabus of these lectures, which was approved. They were intended as introductory to the professional study of the law, and to assist gentlemen who did not study it professionally in the understanding of history.

"I translated Fourcroy's Chemistry twice, from the second and third editions of the original: Fourcroy's Philosophy of Chemistry; Savary's Travels in Greece: Dumourier's Letters, Gessner's Idylls in part, an abstract of Zimmerman on Solitude, and a great diversity of smaller pieces; I wrote a journey through the western parts of Scotland, which has passed through two editions; a history of Scotland, in six vols, octavo; a topographical account of Scotland, which has been several times

reprinted; a number of communications in the Edinburgh Magazine, many prefaces and critiques, a memoir of the life of Burns the poet, which suggested and promoted the subscription for his family, has been many times reprinted, and formed the basis of Dr. Currie's life of him, as I learned by a letter from the doctor to one of his friends; a variety of jeux d'esprit in verse and prose, and many abridgments of large works.

"In the beginning of 1799, I was encouraged to come to London. Here I have written a great multiplicity of articles in almost every branch of science and literature, my education at Edinburgh having comprehended them all. The London Review, the Agricultural Magazine, the Antijacobin Review, the Monthly Magazine, the Universal Magazine, the Public Characters, the Annual Necrology, with several other periodical works, contain many of my communications. In such of these publications as have been reviewed, I can shew that my anonymous pieces have been distinguished with very high praise. I have written also a short system of Chemistry, in one volume, octavo; and I published, a few weeks since, a small work, called Comforts of Human Life, of which the first edition was sold in one week, and the second edition is now in rapid sale.

"In the newspapers—the Oracle, the Porcupine when it existed, the General Evening Post, the Morning Post, the British Press, the Courier, I have published many reports of debates in parliament, and I believe a greater variety of light fugitive pieces than I know to have been written by any one other person.

"I have written also a variety of compositions in the Latin and French languages, in favor of which I have been honored with the testimonies of liberal approbation.

"I have invariably written to serve the cause of religion, morality, pious christian education, and good order in the most direct manner. I have considered what I have written as mere trifles, and have incessantly studied to qualify myself to something better. I can prove that I have for many years read and written one day with another from twelve to sixteen hours a day. As a human being I have not been free from follies and errors, but the turn of my life has been temperate, laborious, humble, quiet, and to the utmost of my power beneficent. I can prove the general tenor of my writings to have been candid, and ever

adapted to exhibit the most favourable views of the abilities, dispositions, and exertions of others.

"For these last ten months I have been brought to the very extremity of bodily and pecuniary distress.

"I shudder at the thought of perishing in a gaol."

In confinement, ROBERT HERON.
92, *Chancery Lane.*
February 2d, 1807.

Such are the details at once distressing and entertaining, with which the work abounds: that it is well calculated to repress the egotism of the vain, and the enthusiasm of the sanguine, it is, therefore, needless to demonstrate. It exhibits the miseries of authorship under every variety of form, and every peculiarity of situation, and while it affords the most useful and instructive lessons to the young and self-confident aspirants after literary celebrity it is enlivened with an unusual portion of information and anecdote.

That Mr. D'Israeli has frequently mistaken those common disappointments and vicissitudes that are experienced in every rank and every profession, for the peculiar accompaniments of authorship; and that the misfortunes which befel the majority of his heroes, attached to the individuals, rather than to the profession they had adopted, is sufficiently evident, but as a selectr he deserves upon the whole, unlimited praise. The extracts he has made, and the anecdotes he hascommunicated, are in the highest degree interesting and entertaining, and had Mr. D'Israeli inserted nothing of his own, the Calamities of Authors might have been read with unmingled pleasure.

That in his anxiety to add to the calamities of authors, Mr. D'Israeli has frequently presented us with very partial or exaggerated sketches of the lives and manners of his heroes, and has too frequently included in the list of miseries peculiar to men of letters, the misfortunes and vicissitudes that afflict every profession, and every circle of society may be proved by abundant evidence. The distress

of Cole, who on looking back at the labour of nearly forty years, discovered that the productions of his industry were stale, flat, and unprofitable, is as common to the statesman, as to the scholar, and the same retrospective dissatisfaction overcame the magnanimity of Alexander when he renewed the conquests he had atchieved, and the empires he had won. It does not appear that the insanity of Collins was connected with his attachment to poetry, or that Chatterton would not have been a deist and a suicide, had he remained at the desk of an attorney. His great mistake, however, is that of supposing the labours even of many individuals who lived in distress, and died in despair, to have been inadequate to the value of their exertions. The truth is, that one half of the characters he enumerates, would have been unable to earn a subsistence in any profession, demanding the exercise of talent, to which they had applied. If literature shall never be doomed to suffer any greater injustice than may arise from the encouragement of a Macdonald and of a Ritson junior, little harm can be dreaded from the blindness or the cruelty of the public or the booksellers. Bad lawyers, unskilful physicians, and awkward or unfeeling actors, are sentenced to neglect and poverty, without appeal, and why should a race of beings, who, if they are industrious, estimate the value of labour by its extent, and when they are idle, mistake impatience of application for the enthusiasm of genius, be the only claimants on our sympathy and indulgence? The miseries of authorship indeed are too evident and too distressing to require the colouring of prejudice or misrepresentation; but the evil is more easily discovered than the remedy. Mr. D'Israeli, in the indiscretion of his zeal, forgets that the multitude of bad books far outnumbers the trivial proportion of good ones; that if authors were their own merchants, the speculation of every individual would be as extensive as his vanity was predominant, and those who now receive something from the booksellers, without risk to others, or injury to themselves, would soon become the most frequent visitors of Guildhall and the King's Bench.

A BATH FAMILY.[1]

The father of Sir J—— L. was the friend of the Duke of Cumberland, and shared in the triumph of that commander at the battle of Culloden. The attachment of the great, however, is not always beneficial to the fortunes of their dependents; and the conqueror of the Scots, after exacting from Mr. L. an assiduous attendance on his person for more than twenty years, rewarded him for his constant and unremitting services with no more substantial remuneration than a knighthood, and a pension of one hundred pounds. On this income, even when augmented by the addition of his half pay, it was impossible for a soldier and a gentleman to live; and he, therefore, on the death of his patron, selected Bath as the place of his residence, and resolved to improve his fortune by his dexterity at the gaming tables. For many years he pursued an uninterrupted career of splendid extravagance, but he was at length obliged to give way to the united skill and good fortune of younger but more expert adventurers, and to content himself with the petty gains, that might occasionally be obtained, by engaging in a party at cards with superannuated maids and ancient dowagers. In the first of these classes Miss Arabella C—s deserved to be numbered: she had just completed her 50th year, and was much afflicted with the head-ache and rheumatics; but then she possessed a handsome hereditary estate, and was the mistress of personal property to a considerable amount. Of her history we have obtained no other information than that which is abruptly and imperfectly communicated in the subjoined letter, which is evidently the production of a female superficially educated, but improved in some degree by mingling with the world.

"*May 9th*, 1778.

"Dear Eleano.,

"I received your agreeable epistolary communications by Mary C——— ;—and in compliance with your request, I write immediately after the receipt of it. I have undertaken a difficult task, as it will remind me of many scenes of woe, long since buried in oblivion;—but the high sense (which I entertain of friendship) were my motives, for I think what I resign to you of our family history, will be as closely confined as the inanimate corse within its narrow dimensions the grave.—You ask me if I doubt your confidence—I leave yourself to be the judge—if I suspect you why do I entrust you with the following story ?—My father is descended from an ancient family in the west of England, my grandfather was possessed of an immense fortune ; but having an enterprizing spirit, he laid out 3 parts of it in a lead mine, belonging to his deceased father, and not yet brought to perfection : several other gentlemen risked their money along with my grandfather, and were all ruined ; soon after my grandfather launched into possession of his fortune, he married an amiable woman, by whom he had six children, of which my father was the youngest ; he was at an early age sent to one of the public academies, and continued there till he was of age ; during which time he was noticed for the brightness of his genius,—he was intended for the pulpit, where it was thought he would prove an honourable ornament o the cloth, and was to have been ordained by Dr. L——, of London, but alas !—how fatally was my grandfather's hopes and wishes prevented; for his son had been educated at a school where the generality of the pupils were noblemen's sons : they had all greater allowances with respect to pocket money than my father ;—though liberally supplied by his father, his companions young and thoughtless soon initiated him in all their youthful frolicks.—He naturally of a warm and sanguine disposition, soon became as heedless and gay as they themselves were ; forgetful of the solemn functions he had shortly to engage in ;—but now comes the sorrows of my tale · the house where he lodged happened to contain a beautiful girl, daughter to one of his father's tenants ; she was apparently innocence and simplicity personified ; but ah ! her art and cunning involved the whole family in distress ; my father

fired at the freshness of her looks, resolved to attempt her virtue, (oh! the frailty of the sex;) and she instructed by her father seemed to be coy, with no other intention, than by delaying, to get a promise of marriage from him: but he was proof against their plottings, and she unable to hold out any longer surrendered up her virtue for all powerful gold; though at the same time making her father believe that the so much desired promise was obtained. At the time this happened the marriage betwixt my mother and him was in agitation, though unknown to the farmer's daughter; the reason was, my mother lived in B——, and my father was at Ledburn College, where the love intrigue was carried forward; almost immediately after that affair my father left the college, and went to B—— to ratify the marriage articles; previous to this he was to have been ordained by Lord Sh—— and the doctor, and then after the marriage, he was to convey his lovely bride to the parsonage house already prepared for their reception. Adieu.

I will conclude this long letter by informing you, that you must not expect what I write will be in the least methodical, or put together with any connection, as I just mean to give you the outlines of the story, as I have been too well informed by my grandmother, and a cousin in the days of my prosperity who was a visitant 18 weeks at my father's house; though the latter part will be what I myself have been an unwished witness of; read what I have already written with candour. My compliments to your amiable sister Fanny, be assured that I will not be able to visit her, much to my *sorrow* that you may believe. Yours sincerely,

Arabella C——.

Miss C. had been so much delighted by the attentions of Sir J. L. as a *partner* at cards, that she began to entertain a favorable opinion of his claims to her compassion as the *partner* of her bed. He was not less ardent than she was complying, and in the year 1778, the captain, aged 75, was married to the beautiful and accomplished Arabella, aged 51. That any progeny should be the issue of such a marriage, even the gossips and the bride's maid did not venture to expect; but the happy pair deceived the prognostics of the medical tribe, for in

little more than a year after their entrance into the holy state of wedlock, the present Sir J—— made his entrance into the world. It is said that several phœnomena astonished the nations of the world, at the moment of his birth; but as we cannot vouch for the truth of the remark from personal observation, we leave this important point to be determined by the Antiquarian Society.

At a proper age, Master L. was sent to Eton, but here the first indications of his future character occasioned his expulsion. His master caught him in the act of amorous overture with a Windsor milliner, and supposing that a boy of thirteen years old, who exhibited such unusual symptoms of precocity, would do little credit to the establishment, he obtained his expulsion. His father as the best security against similar indiscretions sent him to sea, but his mother was so much affected by his absence, and so much afraid lest the dear youth should be killed or drowned, that after an absence of about three months, he was recalled. A living was in the gift of the family, and they now resolved to make him a parson. Under the superintendence of a private tutor, therefore, he was prepared for the University, and sent at a proper age to O—— college, Oxford. Even here his indiscretions were of so peculiar enormity, and so openly committed in defiance of the authority of his superiors, that after being permitted as an act of indulgence to take his degree, he found it impossible to remain any longer at college with pleasure or safety, and he therefore resolved to while away the dreary interval between that period and his accession to the duties and revenues of his living at Bath. Beneath the roof of his parents he was aware that it would be impossible to carry on his amours without discovery or interruption. He therefore occupied furnished lodgings at the house of a buxom widow, addicted to intrigue, and not less open to the reception of successive strangers than her apartments. She had two young nieces residing within the house, and he exercised his talents for intrigue in the seduction or possession of the three. The widow herself

obtained an unbounded influence over him; he supported her during his residence at Bath in continued extravagance, and on taking possession of his living, took her to the parsonage-house in the capacity of housekeeper. His father died, and his fortune was now equal to the support of the aunt and the nieces. But his mother had much to bestow by will, and the fear of offending her prevented him from a free and indecorous indulgence of his wishes. At length the old lady was taken ill, she wished to take the sacrament with her son; he acceded to her request, previous to the ceremony, and she adjured him by the holy rite they were about to perform, to banish from his house and his affections the females whose blandishments had enslaved his mind. After the death of his mother, he retired to the parsonage-house, where he gave way to the unrestrained indulgence of his passions: the laws of consanguinity and the duties of his profession were equally forgotten in the intemperate ardor of his desires. The nieces were young, handsome, and dependent: his wife was willing to give and receive reciprocal indulgence, and this ornament of the established church, this teacher of religion, to whom the community should look up for the pattern of manners, and the example of virtue, has continued, in defiance of the authority of his superiors, and the indignation of the county, to live in the avowed practice of adultery and incest.

P.

P—— LUXURY, NOBLE PROFLIGACY, AND THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

Sir,

If a king is sacred he is only sacred as representing the majesty of the people whose voice he is supposed to

express. Whenever he acts contrary to their declared sentiments, he forfeits that character, and dwindles into a mere individual. He is only uncontrolable when he enforces the decisions of the people, which are and ought to be uncontrolable. A single man may dissent from the resolutions of the whole nation, and protest against them, yet incur no premunire. It would be strange if he did not enjoy the same liberty of protesting against the measures of a king. Though a bill should have passed through the House of Commons, and received the concurrence of all the peers but one, that one may enter a protest against it. In other words, a single man may protest against the proceedings of the whole nation; for we must consider the voice of the nation as expressed by their representatives when they do not disavow their conduct.

Nothing is more frequent than to see the three branches of the legislature censured by a single individual. How many pamphlets are daily published to shew the absurdity or pernicious tendency of several acts of parliament! If the press were not thus privileged, how could the eyes of the people be opened, or how could grievances be known that they might be redressed? This is a right which has never been disputed, but to the destruction of those who had the temerity to do it. Shall we then pay more reverence to the Regent alone than to the whole legislature? Shall his conduct be sacred from censure when we impeach the supreme authorities of the realm? This would be no less preposterous than pernicious.

By telling a prince that he is sacred, we render him in all probability a worse man than he would otherwise have proved. It makes him imagine that he is of a superior species, and that for his pleasure his subjects were created; he will sport with their feelings from caprice, and torture where he dare not kill. A sovereign who is in no fear of doing what he will, will generally do what he can, if it be only to try his strength and display his power. Alexander did not set up for a god because he

believed in his own divinity, but because he wished to evince his ability to support whatever pretensions he might assume.

Muley Ishmael, the emperor of Morocco, was endowed with much wit, and more than a common portion of good sense. His temper was active, his courage undaunted, and his application indefatigable. Being a descendant of the prophet, he was a firm supporter of his laws; he never tasted wine, and he began the Turkish Lent a month before his subjects. He was often at his prayers, and that he might want no opportunities of kneeling, he caused large consecrated stones pointing to the east to be erected in all the spacious courts of his palace, for any occasional exercise of devotion. What might not have been expected from such a prince? But his subjects regarded his person as sacred, and imagined that the soul of every man whom he butchered flew straight to paradise. Their flatteries and their superstition made him a monster. Foreign ambassadors were received by the holy man, mounted on horseback in an open court where he was surrounded by his ministers and courtiers barefoot, trembling, bowing to the earth, and at every sentence exclaiming "Great is the wisdom of our lord the king; our lord the king speaks as an angel from heaven." Happy was the man among them whom he deigned to send to the most remote corner of the city upon the most slavish errand. He ran through every puddle in his way, and took care to return covered with dirt and out of breath, that he might prove himself a diligent and faithful minister. In order to entertain foreigners with his dexterity in horsemanship, he would graciously run two or three of his beloved subjects through the body with the tilt of his lance. At a moderate computation he is supposed to have butchered forty thousand of his people with his royal hands. He generally chose to perform himself, the duty of the executioner. In order to render the ceremony more awful he appeared on these occasions

in a garb of a particular colour: so that the first news enquired after every morning at Mequinaz, was whether the emperor appeared that day in yellow. If that was the case, his grandees hid themselves in holes and corners, till he had glutted his thirst of blood by the death of such loyal commoners as chanced to come in his way. The envoy of Louis the Fourteenth had his last audience when he was blooded up to the elbows with feats of this kind. He shewed his taste in building not only by demolishing the edifices which he disliked, but by putting the offending architects to death. There is but one instance of his mercy upon record. An Englishman presented him with a hatchet; he used its edge upon the donor, who slipped his head aside, and escaped with the loss of an ear. One of his queens of whom he was remarkably fond, died when pregnant by a kick from her lord the king, for having picked up a flower as she was walking with him in his pleasure garden. He bastinadoed to death his favourite mistress, and repenting what he had done, executed his serjeant surgeon for not being able to bring her to life.

He was as notable a guardian of the fortunes as of the lives of his subjects. When any man became richer than he chose, he used to send for all his goods and chattels. His governors of provinces formed themselves upon the example of the emperor. They practiced violence, rapine, and extortion, in order to send them their yearly presents. If one of them was found to retain any thing more than a comfortable subsistence, he was sure of being hanged by his sovereign. Such were his ways and means of raising the requisite supplies, which he took care to bury in the ground by means of trusty slaves, whose throats he then cut as the best security for his subterraneous exchequer. Meeting a little before the Ram feast one of his grandees, at the head of his servants, driving a flock of sheep, he asked him whose they were? He answered "they are mine, Oh! Ishmael, son of Elcherif, of the line of Hassan." "Thine, thou son of a cuckold,"

said the servant of the Lord, "I thought I had been the only proprietor in this country;" upon which he pierced him with his lance, and piously distributed the sheep among his guards for the celebration of the feast.

His judicial determinations were very summary, and generally ended in the ruin both of the plaintiff and the defendant. A courtier complained that a wife whom he could not divorce, as he had received her from his majesty's hands, used to pull him by the beard. He ordered his beard to be pulled up by the roots that he might be subject to no such affronts for the future. A country farmer accused his guards of having robbed him of a drove of oxen. He readily shot the offenders, but demanding compensation of the accuser for the loss of so many brave fellows, and finding him insolvent, he compounded the matter with him by taking away his life. The only good thing he ever did was clearing the highways of robbers. His method of performing this was somewhat curious. He slew man, woman, and child within a limited distance from them, which to be sure rendered every road in his dominions rather unsafe for a highwayman. Such are the advantages of holding the character of majesty sacred!

The productions of the press, while they teach our princes and our governors that no rank is so exalted, nor any power so extensive as to be above the reach of literary correction, are not attended with those dangerous consequences that often spring from popular harangues, and which were so pernicious to ancient states, in which demagogues had no other mode of communicating their sentiments to the people. An inflammatory speech from the mouth of an orator, soon kindled the spirit of the multitude, and hurried them instantaneously into foolish and dangerous measures, which no prudence could afterwards retrieve. But the effect of a pamphlet or essay is calm and regular; it is generally read in the closet, or at least in the presence of a few: the voice, the looks, the

gesture of the orator, are wanting; it improves the understanding more, but moves the passions less: its operations are slow and progressive: it gains insensibly on the minds of the intelligent, and excites the patriotism, without inflaming the imagination, of the active politician.

That the safety of a nation, like Great Britain, depends on the virtue of its princes and its nobles, and on the moral and temperate habits of the people at large, is a truth of which the importance may be proved by the history of every empire that has been degraded from a state of political eminence, to a level with subservient and dependent states. The first Romans were all husbandmen, and the husbandmen were all soldiers; their habit was coarse, their labour constant; to these illustrious peasants was it owing that Rome in less than three centuries subdued the most warlike nations of Italy, defeated the mighty armies of the Gauls, the Cimbrians, and the Teutones, and gave a dangerous blow to the formidable power of Carthage. It was not till after the destruction of that rival of Rome, and the subsequent conquest of Greece, that this celebrated people, invincible abroad, sunk beneath the weight of its own greatness. Luxury, and the love of riches, came into Rome with the treasures of the conquered provinces, and the poverty and temperance that had formed so many great captains, fell into contempt.

Till then nothing could oppose the force of their arms abroad, or weaken the sinews of the government at home; but conquest, with its accumulated treasures, introduced avarice, effeminacy, venality, and a long train of attendant evils. Rome proceeded with rapidity towards its decline, and the masters of the world "lulled in the lap of luxury," degenerated from rough and invincible heroes into soft and tractable slaves.

Persia, which gained an absolute dominion in the east, was at first no more than a petty province of the country which afterwards went by that name. In the time of Cambyses, father to Cyrus the great, there were, accord-

ing to the concurring testimony of the most credible historians, but 26,000 men, capable of bearing arms in the whole kingdom, so that upon a moderate computation, the number of inhabitants could not amount to 100,000, which is not above a tenth part of what London at present contains. The rapid progress of so inconsiderable a people might excite our astonishment if we did not reflect that their laws were framed with a professed design to promote the public good; neither calculated to serve the sinister purposes of a faction, nor to secure the iniquitous predominance of a favorite. As in other states, the legislators thought it enough to provide punishment for criminals, in Persia they superseded the necessity of providing punishments, by taking care there should be no criminals. The state took particular cognizance of the education of the youth, and appointed their instructors, exercises, and discipline, that they might betimes acquire a habit of temperance and sobriety, and be less exposed to seduction from the temptations of luxury. While under so wise and vigorous a discipline, Crœsus, king of Lydia, made war upon them, but found, to his fatal experience, that wealth is a poor defence, when possessed by a corrupt and effeminate people: for he lost his dominions, and died in captivity.

Under a system like that I have described, we might be as apt to wonder at the decay of this mighty empire, as formerly at its rapid progress. The truth is, that Persia, like Rome, never lost her empire till she had previously lost her virtue. About 250 years after the death of Cyrus, this declension both in manners and dominion commenced. The influence of their excellent discipline was now no more, public spirit became languid, virtuous poverty was held in derision; and to an ardent desire of glory, succeeded a servile compliance to power and greatness, a breach of treaties, and a want of faith in all public engagements.

Thus degenerated, it is not strange that the Persians should have become an easy conquest. In the specula-

tions to which the history of their future fortune naturally gives rise, I should willingly indulge, were the application to the present condition of a certain modern empire less obvious or less dangerous. The Roman history itself affords so many anecdotes of peculators and dealers in votes, that to select particular instances of ancient villainy and bribery would be superfluous; and I shall therefore conclude a letter, of which you have by this time, in all probability, discovered the object, by repeating the following story from the annals of a nation, in whose fate we feel a warm and immediate interest.

When Olivarez and Vasconcellos were ministers from Spain, complaints were made against a person in a high station at Mexico (the V——) of those times, that he had made an immense fortune by indirect means. Upon this a friend wrote to him in the following manner. "I hear you have filled your coffers by various extortions, and I hope it is true, for you may then depend upon the protection of our minister, who would sell his soul for a bribe: if you have taken but little, you are undone; therefore mend your hand if it is not too late."

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

M. M. M.

THE SACRIFICE.

Friend of thy Prince! the Wellesleys say,
That G—— still owns a H——'s sway,
And that each ministerial minion,
Must tamely yield to her opinion.

Faith, Moira, 'tis no timid plan,
But you've mistaken quite your man;

Wellesley *Boutefeu* once made before,
Will a cat's paw be made no more,
Your temple then of concord raise,
By any other means and ways,
In him no corner stone you'll find,
So little fashioned to your mind,
That even the uncementing wall,
Tho' raised would soon to pieces fall:
Wellesley and Grey to reconcile,
Is mixing vinegar and oil:
Confound you may by agitation,
Yet can't prevent their separation;
Antipathies are fixed in nature;
A whig must be a tory hater,
The coward still must fear the brave,
The subject must despise the slave;
And since your project comes to naught,
What think you of the following thought?
A scheme deduced (to give it weight),
From scripture and the Jewish state,
When statesmen, by divine legation,
Tax'd, plundered, and dragooned the nation.
In ancient days, such days as these,
When ministers did what they please,
And by their own peculiar crimes,
Outstripped the vices of the times;
So universal grew the evil,
That all were posting to the devil;
When Moses, well the risk aware on,
Accosted thus his brother Aaron;
Aaron, he cried, go cut the throat
Of yonder rampant stallion goat;
That a sin offering may be made,
And thus the nation's debts be paid:
Next to prevent, what ill reflection,
Might happen upon retrospection,
Lay on your kid, the treasury's budget,
And let him as a scape-goat trudge it,

Rebellion then at once shall cease,
And furious faction, pray for peace.
Rise! Moira! rise! with zeal elate,
The Jewish sage to imitate,
What if yon lewd Scotch goat we take,
E——— and him an offering make,
On Newgate sacrificial altar,
Well would his neck become a halter:
What if we make for like good end,
A scape-goat of your red-nos'd friend;
Come ye vile sinners of the times,
On his broad back repose your crimes,
Come Y———, S———, and J———,
Tho' yours would break down twenty backs,
Come H——— with goat resembling phiz,
And hang your grace's horns on his:
Or if employed this busy crisis,
Send Polly D——— with your vices;
And thou most noble Ab———
With frigid powerless lechery worn;
Sir Double Tongue, for double fee,
Will prove your consciences are free;
And M—— firm in resolution,
Pronounce your legal absolution.
Come W——— in vice supremely bold,
With bills fictitious, changed to gold:
Load him with panniers full of these,
And lay your vices where you please;
Next let sublime V——— jump,
And stick his vices in the rump,
Well loaded thus before, behind,
With villainies of every kind,
If you to bear them once can get him,
Merely for concord's sake, why let him!
Strait to the wilderness dispatch him,
And if he goes the devil catch him!
Yet vain the rite! let rancour cease,
At C——— before we wish for peace,

The slavish mind can ne'er agree,
With souls that would and will be free,
False harmony among the great,
More injures oft than serves a state,
When knaves are true to one another,
Each rogue will answer for his brother:
Nor till they're shy and jealous grown,
Will honest folks enjoy their own,
Devils with devils damn'd, we're told,
In hell itself firm concord hold;
Their horrid concord firmly bent,
Poor suffering sinners to torment,
With devils there should discord dwell,
She might assuage the pains of hell.

Oh, never then let peace on earth
Without goodwill give concord birth!
May ne'er again the times becalm,
Till closed corruption's itching palm,
Till open'd freedom's liberal hand,
Emancipate and bless the land,
Till truth, shall try each doubtful cause,
And mercy execute the laws:
While virtue beams around the throne,
And justice sways the R—— hand, *alone*!

PRAYER BOOK AND BIBLE SOCIETIES.

Sir,

At a time when the nation is involved in the deepest mercantile distress, when thousands of our artizans are destitute of employment, and every hour affords some additional evidence of the melancholy situation to which the people are reduced, it is at once afflicting and disgusting to contemplate the proceedings of a numerous portion of the respectable classes of the community, who are

wasting their time and mis-directing their exertions in the pursuit of chimerical, unattainable, or secondary objects, while purposes of substantial utility and general necessity are entirely neglected, or regarded with comparative indifference. Your observations on the petty anxieties, and frivolous activity of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, convince me that you are not totally insensible to the mischiefs that are likely to result from the exertions of men with whom undiscriminating enthusiasm, or the love of notoriety, overpowers every consideration of rational benevolence, and it is therefore the more surprising that you have not yet directed your attention to the various institutions that, under the titles of Bible Societies, Prayer Book Societies, and Societies for the Propagation of the Gospel, abuse the charity, and trespass on the most important interests of the public.

It may perhaps be admitted that the first establishers of such societies deserve the indulgence of the public to their good intentions, whatever may be the ultimate tendency of their labours, and to this barren and equivocal praise, I shall not dispute their pretensions. But their very merits, as men and Christians, extend the injury that their plans are likely to effect, and give strength and dignity to the most pernicious institutions. The individuals who would otherwise have contented themselves with contributing in proportion to their resources to the usual objects of practical and useful charity, are seduced by the authority of names into the support of fanciful and unsubstantial modes of benevolence; and the distresses of the labouring poor are beheld without any remaining power of relief, by the landlord or the neighbour, who, beneath the sanction of a Teignmouth and a Gambier, has devoted the only portion of his income that he could spare for charitable purposes to the circulation of the bible in distant countries.

A hospital is in want of pecuniary assistance, and its directors appeal for relief to the generous sympathy of the British public. The good and the benevolent are

disposed to contribute their mite to the preservation or the comfort of suffering humanity; but in the mean time a Bible society is established under the direction of a venerable divine, or a member of parliament, distinguished by every public and every private virtue. An institution supported by such individuals *must be* deserving of encouragement; their eloquent appeals to the piety of their fellow Christians, and their pathetic declamations on the lost and benighted state of less favoured nations, excite with equal force the devout emulation, and the humane sympathy, of their auditors and their readers: they draw from the purse of the well-meaning, but enthusiastic or unobservant man of feeling, the guinea, that had he been left to the impulse of his own sentiments, he would have devoted to the actual miseries of his suffering countrymen, and the victim of disease or misfortune is left to languish in torment or despair, that a native of Lapland may be presented with a gift of which he neither understands the use, nor solicits the donation.

On the absurdity of putting the Bible into the hands of savages, you have on former occasions expressed your opinion at considerable length. To an individual not previously prepared for its examination, it must be worse than useless. With what part of the scriptures is he to begin, or to what points of history or doctrine must his chief attention be directed? Unless his inquiries be superintended by a careful and intelligent instructor, the most entertaining parts of the Bible, and not the most important, will obtain the strongest hold on his attention and his memory: the history of Samson will be more eagerly read, and more frequently recollected than the Sermon on the Mount; and Bel and the Dragon be more frequently repeated to his children, than the history of the atonement. The scriptures abound with apparent contradictions and inconsistencies: the true meaning of many important and fundamental passages is still the subject of controversy throughout the christian world, and who is to guide the barbarian through his doubts and his perplex-

MAHARAJA SERFOJI

ities? The mis-construction and mis-application of the scriptures have been the cause of long and melancholy political convulsions; religion itself has been nearly overwhelmed in the struggles of contending sects, and yet the lights of our church and the guardians of our religion come forward to promote the circulation of the scriptures in countries where they can only excite discordance of opinion, and among nations to whom even the simple rudiments of learning are unknown.

There is nothing in the Bible itself that forces conviction on the ignorant. The rational christian believes its authenticity, because he possesses that auxiliary learning which enables him to balance the various testimonies concerning it; to compare its chronology, and its historical narrations, with the general evidence of history. The unlearned christian believes in their authenticity, not merely from the prejudice of education, but from the evident application of their precepts to all the motives of action, and all the purposes of life; from the evidence before him that they are received as genuine by individuals whose learning and talents would enable them to detect the falsehood of surreptitious documents, and from the conclusions that he himself is enabled to draw respecting their general claim to consistency of narrative and doctrine. To the persons among whom the circulation of the Bible is chiefly intended, the chronology of the Bible, the profane history to which it refers, or with which it is connected, and the accordance between the miracles and the prophecies, are unknown and inaccessible. By them the Bible can only be read as an Arabian tale: its narrations may amuse, but neither their truth nor their tendency will be evident.

But miracles, it is said, may yet be performed, and the operation of the Bible be assisted by the divine influence. But if the interference of Providence be admitted, who shall define its limits, or pretend to facilitate its purposes? If the immediate interference of the Deity be supposed, the circulation of the Bible, as well as its interpretation, may be left to the wisdom of Omnipotence. To exhibit

our zeal and alacrity indeed in the promotion of important and virtuous objects, even when we trust for their completion to the arm of the Almighty, is the duty of the christian: as the prayers of the good are acceptable at the throne of mercy, not because our wants or our gratitude are unknown, but because they exercise us in well-doing, and excite and preserve our constant vigilance. But acts of supererogation only demand our care, when objects of immediate and visible utility have no claim on our time and talents; nor will the Father of mankind regard with benignity the zealot who relinquishes the positive and obvious duties of life, for the performance of a dubious act of mistaken enthusiasm.

The directors of the Bible Society are sincere believers, I presume, in the miraculous propagation of the gospel, and will not be indisposed to admit that all the instances recorded in scripture of miraculous relief afforded to personal suffering and individual misfortune, were performed as conducive to the demonstration of miraculous power, without a direct reference to the immediate object effected. It is to be presumed, for instance, that the restoration of sight to the blind was not performed because the individuals whom our Saviour healed, had any individual claims on his compassion, but because the accomplishment of the miracle testified his divinity. From this view of the scripture miracles, the society may derive the materials of useful meditation. The bodily wants of men never become the objects of the direct interference of providence, because the manifestation of that interference would chill the ardor of the benevolent, would deprive misfortune of much of its claim on human compassion, and induce in the afflicted, and in those who sympathise in their sufferings an habitual and dangerous reliance on miraculous relief. The wisdom of the Almighty has declared that in sickness and distress, man shall be dependent upon man; but that omnipotence itself shall supply his spiritual wants, and minister to his devotion. The law of revela-

tion as well as of nature commands us to relieve the hungry and clothe the naked: and the scriptures while they abound with exhortations to benevolence, neither explain nor enforce the duty of proselytism.

The society may possibly assert that they wish the circulation of the scriptures to be auxiliary only to religious instruction; and that it is the sole object of their endeavours to render the labours of the instructors of religion more easy and effectual. If this declaration be true, their conduct must be estimated by those common principles which regulate the daily actions of mankind; and it remains to be determined, comparing the urgency and the importance of their respective claims on our benevolence, whether to relieve the bodily distresses of the British poor, be not a more immediate and obvious duty, than to supply the christians of foreign climes with bibles and prayer books. Speculative charity is only deserving of praise, when its duties can be fulfilled without weakening or effacing from remembrance the interests of practical benevolence: and whoever examines the statements of the Bible Society, and similar institutions, must be surprized and afflicted at the extensive support they obtain from that portion of the community of which the charity is only effective, when it is directed to a single object. The subscriber of 10l. annually to St. Bartholomew's Hospital affords considerable relief to his fellow creatures directly by the donation of the sum itself, and indirectly by his example. If he transfers his subscription from the hospital to the Bible Society, a bigot or a fanatic alone will rejoice at the change; and if he divide the ten pounds between the charities, supposing them to have an equal claim on his support, his donation is comparatively of little benefit to either.

To the first establishers of such societies no one will deny the praise of good intention. But they have since become the *foci* of resort, and to a motley assemblage of the idle, the vain, the hypocritical, and the designing. The plodding collegian, whose repulsive manners and ob-

tuse sensations disqualify him for social intercourse with his parishioners, or for the enjoyment of the beauties of nature, yet whose habits of self-importance accompany him from the college to the country, and from the country to the metropolis, discovers, in subscribing to the Bible Society, a means of becoming notorious without labour, and consequential without exposure to minute or inconvenient criticism. The clerical orator, who persuades himself that the habit of speaking with monotonous fluency on common and unvaried topics is the perfection of eloquence; the incumbent, who wishes to recommend himself to the favour and the patronage of his diocesan; the lovers of bustle, the parasites of rank, and the proficients in the gossip and tittle tattle of public dinners, are all excited to become the members and directors of an institution in which the officiousness of petty vanity is mistaken for religious zeal, and to profess the enthusiasm of piety is to obtain its honours.

GENTILITY IN PROPRIA PERSONA.

"Jesters do oft prove prophets."

SHAKESPEARE.

It is with the most sincere, unfeigned, and heart-felt contrition, that I humbly beg pardon of the *reverend* fraternity for a totally unintentional, slight, cast upon them in the pages of the SCOURGE for the last month. Justice to their *usual candor* emboldens me to hope this sin, a sin of omission most certainly, will not meet with so heavy a visitation from their inexpressibly tender, indescribably lenient hands; more especially as it is thus publicly and openly repented of. The fault alluded to is this. Through a misconception, or under such non-

respectable title whatever, as those whomsoever it may concern shall chuse to rank it, I had marked the manuscript in that kind of way as to occasion the word *gentleman* to obtrude itself upon the public, in no better garb than lang meagre *italics*, for which I most deservedly take sorrow and shame to myself as aforesaid. If I were inclined, but the heinousness of my offence paralizes every effort of that nature, I might advance by way of extenuation, that I actually never did imagine *parsons* had any claim to the title of *gentlemen*, but what merely arose out of the authority of chit chat verbality. Judge then, reader, of my astonishment! figure to yourself my poor conscience-stricken situation, when the following advertisement most extraordinary met my eye.

WANTED, to serve the cure of Newark upon Trent, at Midsummer next, a GENTLEMAN in priest's orders.—*Nottingham Journal, May 30th*, 1812.

There's a large fine Roman GENTLEMAN for you! "Ye little stars hide your diminished heads"—we have it here in print, the very thing called for boldly by name. Let us look at it somewhat more narrowly. Wanted—what? A gentleman in priest's orders—orders mean commands—to serve the cure of Newark—the plain English of which must run thus. Wanted, a gentleman (that is, in the real acceptation of the word, a person who from his situation in life is wholly and absolutely independent of every one in pecuniary matters) who is already under the *commands* of *some one* to *serve* somebody else in the capacity of a *journeyman parson!!!* Oh thou blessed age of refinement, alias impudence, what wilt thou lead us to? Most likely in droves to those asylums which are now rearing their heads in every part of the united kingdom. Poor old England I doubt has been playing a down-hill-run, without a wheel locked, since she amassed so large a stock of *gentlemen!* We have *gentlemen farmers*, who now ride such horses that their fathers, honest Tom, Will, and Harry durst not have

owned, and, as to *drawing a cork* or *sporting a sentiment*, you might as well have asked them to have spent the Sunday without going to church. Item, *gentlemen tradesmen*, this is a most unlucky perversion of grammar, for the gentility of the knights of the sugar plum and beggars inkle, it so happening that the plural of tradesman is tradesfolk; link together, gentlemen tradesfolk and then —good-lack-a-day! Item, *gentlemen performers*, this, I take it is applicable either to *fiddlers* or *vagrants*. But all of those above ornamented worthies are, at least *master-men*, the idea of *journeymen gentlemen* attaches solely to *parsons*, if we except the solitary instance of *gentlemen travellers*, alias *riders*, alias *bag-men*, though I have a serious doubt whether such demi-ladies may fairly claim the exception.

> "Those half form'd witlings, numerous in our isle,
> Like half form'd insects on the banks of Nile,
> Unfinish'd things, one knows not what to call,
> Their generation's so equivocal."

Recurring to the clergy, I disclaim the intention, nay even the idea of *running them down*, I think that's the genteel phrase. A virtuous, conscientious minister of the gospel is no more annoyed by my strictures, than a chaste maiden is by the flagellation of a naughty nymph in Bridewell: *running them down*, indeed.—No, no, that is not quite so easy an enterprize as some imagine, none of your forest cattle's ingratitude being in point in their case, no sympathetic matter to furnish materials for a new edition of soliloquy by puling Jacques; the stricken *clerical buck* is very far from "being alone, left and abandoned by his velvet friends," as for example, the *drunken fellow* I held up last month to the public, the whole herd have opened to right and left, reserved, and closed their ranks upon him; D.D.'s, L.L.D.'s, B.A.'s, and A.M.'s in full ferment, all brandishing their antlers against the wretch Observer. But "list ye *gentles* all to me in a moment;" most propitious, my lucky star has furnished me with an

expedient not only to disarm your wrath, but bind you fast, my friends; in short, I expect little less than canonization for my ingenuity. Having taken into my most mature consideration, the liability of human nature to frailty, that *parsons*, even with the most sober inclinations, may, sometimes, *poor things*, be *overcome*, and, that though a *gentleman* in the *onset* of his labours, may happen to be a little *flustered*; yet could a reinforcement be obtained *midway*, he would pull through with flying colours, I have, at a most considerable expence of evaporation of brain, constructed a machine, the operation of which will entirely obviate every difficulty in future. The appellation of this, I most sanguinely trust soon to become far famed apparatus is THE CLERICAL SUCKIBUS, or *Pulpit Syphon*: its construction is very simple—the lower part consists of a glass bulb whose capacity is a *full quart*, one of which I propose shall be firmly suspended exactly under the centre of the desk, both in the reading place and pulpit; into the neck of the bulb is to be inserted a vermicular tube, terminating in a perpendicular part about six inches in length, which latter part is meant to pass through the desk, the lower part and body of the cushion, and rest neatly just below a small slit in the surface thereof. Arrangement previous must of course be made with *Moses* for the weekly or, &c. replenishment of the bulbs. The *dear exhausted creature* has not any thing to do but when he feels himself *a little wanting*, to wrap his face in the surplice, bow down as if in *holy musing*, press upon the slit rather firmly with his mouth, and the breath of a zephyr, so admirably are the component parts of this wonderful structure in unison, will raise a stream copious enough in one second to invigorate his whole frame, at least till another suck is necessary.

☞ As the *quart bulb* may, in some particular instances be deemed insufficient, a quantity of *half gallons* will be kept on hand to answer any immediate order with the utmost dispatch; price with *town and country agents* in due time.

Nottingham, June 10th, 1812. OBSERVER.

ROOMS OF THE APHRODISIAN SOCIETY,
JUNE 4th, 1812.

SIR,

SINCE my last report of our proceedings the society has been deprived of much pleasure and entertainment by the frequent absence of Lady H——. We were for some time at a loss to conjecture the occasion of her repeated apologies, and some of the members ventured to hint a suspicion that her ladyship had been offended by the exclusion from the rooms, of the statue presented by the Marchioness of A——n; at whose gardens at S——, it had been for some time the presiding deity, and by whose kindness it was transferred to the apartments of the society, where side by side with the Venus of Praxiteles, it stands in all the majesty of love. In a little time, however, it was whispered that the absence of the Marchioness was the consequence of repeated engagements at the habitation of the British Adonis; and as several of our most animated members had formerly flattered themselves with the honour to which she was now exalted by public report, you will readily conceive, Mr. Editor, that no means that jealousy and envy, assisted by curiosity, could invent, were left unpractised to obtain a discovery of the truth. Every member was in motion: the maids of honor, and the gossips of the back stairs, were assailed by the combined address of the society; and it was found, too certainly for the peace of many an ambitious countess and ardent dowager, that the Marchioness of ——— was the sole and happy object of love and courtly admiration. You are aware, Sir, that one of the duties expected of every fair one admitted to the society is a regular and correct list of her lovers. It was first established for the protection of the married part of the female world against the insidious flatteries and the artful infidelities of the opposite sex. From the list of names on the books of the society, it was easy for every member to ascertain with some degree of certainty, the sin-

cerity of her worshipper, and to convict him of falsehood when his name was appended to the list of some happy rival. A violation of her duty therefore, so singular and so dangerous to the welfare of the club, as that we had just detected in Lady H—— demanded an immediate and public investigation, and on the motion of Lady N——, (Sunday, May the 31st) it was unanimously resolved that on that day fortnight the most noble the Marchioness of —— be summoned to answer to the society such interrogatories as it might in its wisdom deem fit to propose. On the day appointed the M——, accompanied by a numerous train of courtly friends, and supported by Ladies W. and A—l obeyed the summons of the messenger, and being placed at the bar of the court immediately opposite the chairwoman, underwent the subjoined examination:

"*Court.* Is your ladyship aware that it is a fundamental duty of every member of the institution to inscribe in its books, the name of every lover whom she has made happy?

Lady. I am not.

Court. Can your ladyship call to your recollection the number of names inscribed within the last six months among those whom you have entitled to the appellation of favored lovers?

Lady. It is impossible for me to say to whom the appellation of favored lovers belongs.

Court. To those whom you have made happy certainly.

Lady. I have before observed that I am not aware of any existing law, by which I am compelled to inscribe in the book the names of those whom I have made happy.

Court. The court views with considerable displeasure your disposition to evade the questions proposed to you. Will your ladyship be pleased to inform us whether you are not bound by our laws to inscribe in that book the name of every lover, except your husband, admitted to your bed?

Lady. I do not conceive myself to be bound by any obligation of the kind alluded to.

Court. Has not your ladyship actually inscribed in the books, within the last six months, the names of several individuals?

Lady. I have.

Court. And is it not your ladyship's meaning that all these individuals were made happy?

Lady. Certainly.

Court. And admitted to your bed?

Lady. I believe so.

Court. Pray is the name of G. G. to be found in the number of these names?

Lady. No!

Court. Then we conjure you, by your honor as an Aphrodisian, by all your hopes of fulfilling its future duties, and your claims on its emulation, to inform us whether the name of G. G. ought not to have been inscribed among the other names of that list?

Lady. I protest upon my honor that it has no claims to be there inscribed.

Court. Is he not in the number of your favored lovers?

Lady. He is.

Court. Has he not been made happy?

Lady. He has.

Court. Has he not been admitted to your bed?

Lady. He has.

Court. Your ladyship informed us a few moments ago that the names actually on the list were inscribed there, for the very reasons that equally apply to G. G. How do you account for the inconsistency?

Lady (*in tears.*) Spare my feelings, I intreat you! Yet if an answer must be made, concealment would be unjust to you, and afflicting to myself. I inscribed in the books the names that you have read, not *merely* because they had been made happy, not merely because they had been admitted to my bed, but because they had rendered the happiness reciprocal! G. has been happy according

to his own ideas of happiness; he has been admitted to my bed, but he has never invaded the privileges of a husband; and is therefore unworthy of being placed in the list of the honorable names that grace the register of the Aphrodisian society."

The delivery of this last answer was accompanied by a general tumult. Expressions of dissatisfaction were exhibited in all parts of the room, and the accused lady was ordered to withdraw.

After the witness had withdrawn, Lady N. offered herself to the attention of the meeting. She declared that she knew as much about the private affairs of the family of G. as any female in the kingdom: her dear C. whose name she had inscribed in the list of her favoured worshippers, had on every occasion proved himself worthy of her love; and she could not but believe from every thing she had experienced of the qualifications of the family, that the singular circumstances disclosed by the M. had been occasioned by her own indiscretion or indifference. She had displayed therefore a becoming modesty in abstaining from recording an imperfect triumph in the register of her conquests, and deserved the thanks rather than the displeasure of her fellow members. She wished that every individual who honored the society with her presence, possessed the same candour, and the same rectitude of purpose. It could not but remain in the recollection of the society that Mrs. D. had polluted the books of the institution with the names of several exalted personages though the law had afterwards declared her to be a virgin. To toy and play were not the only duties requisite to constitute a favored lover; for her part she would scorn to disgrace the worshippers who bowed before her shrine, by suffering their names to be recorded in the same volume with those of such weak and inefficient characters as a Y. and a L. She thanked her good fortune that all her lovers were as they ought to be, and that she retained the power of exciting them to performances worthy of themselves. If the M. had any reason

to complain of Mr. G. she was sure, from repeated experience, of the qualifications of his family, that it must be her own fault; and she was firmly of opinion, therefore, that the most just and expedient procedure of the society would be to admonish her, since she could not, at present inscribe his name on its books with a due regard to her oath of admission, that she should qualify herself so to do as soon as possible.

The Countess of B. presumed that her long experience in the affairs of this nature entitled her to trespass for a moment on the notice of the court. She had listened with some surprize to the observations of the last speaker, recollecting, as she did, that the junior branches of a family may remain in the full possession of powers that in their seniors may be dissipated or decayed. Were she to speak from mere probability, she would certainly conclude that the situation of Mr. G. was such as to preclude all possibility of ever inscribing his name in the honorable list that decorated the name of the —— of ———. His career from his youth up had been one continued scene of drunkenness and dissipation, and the society well knew that indulgence in bacchanalian and meretricious excesses enervates while it inflames the constitution. She did not speak of Mr. G. however, from a mere consideration of the circumstances that had displayed his character on his first entrance into life, or from the extravagances that disgraced his maturer years. She had formerly enjoyed the honor of association with more than one of Mr. G.'s mistresses, and from all of them had she received a positive declaration, of the same description with that which had just fallen from the lips of the noble ———. No one could participate in the distress so incident to such a situation, or sympathize more sincerely in the disappointment of the ——— than herself: but she could not but avow her opinion that when a lover has been permitted to do his best, he is fully entitled to the inscription of his name in the books of the society according to the intent and meaning of its statutes.

The debate was continued in this manner for several

hours, and might have continued (such was the volubility of the illustrious orators) until the present moment, had not the whole society been thrown into a confusion that will be better conceived than described, and from which they have not yet recovered, by the sudden arrival of a messenger with the intelligence that John Bowles, attended by several members of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, and by a posse of constables, had ascended the back stairs, and were within a few feet of the anti-room. The stream of eloquence which had flowed with so much rapidity suddenly stood still. Lady A. blushed: and the duchess would have turned pale, had not the carnation dye retained possession of her cheeks. The contest was no longer which could speak the best, but which could run the fastest. Of the articles left behind in their confusion, I shall transmit you a catalogue. Suffice it at present to inform you that they all escaped, astonished beyond measure that the suppressors should for once have intermeddled with the fashionable world, and utterly unable to conjecture his motives of interference, till one of the society, more sagacious than the rest, discovered that it derived its origin from Mr. Bowles's *loyalty*.

DOCTORS!

SIR,

A FEW days ago, I was surprised by a morning visit from a respectable looking individual; who, after begging pardon for the intrusion, and paying me some fulsome compliments on my professional character, drew from his pocket a roll of parchment, and requested me to accept of it as a trifling testimony of respect from the body to which he belonged. "We shall dispense in your intsance, (he observed) with the usual *compliment*; your good word is all that we desire, your pupils may wish to obtain professional honors more ra-

pidly than they can be obtained in London, and they may graduate with us, for the sum of 15l. 10s." Surprised at his discourse, I opened the paper, and found it to be a Scotch *diploma*, which I have transcribed for the benefit of your readers.

"*Aberdeen, March 29th*, 1812.

"It having been represented unto us, that A. B. of M——— street, in the parish of Mary-le-bone, in the city of Westminster, esq. is a gentleman of great erudition, and that he hath on several occasions contributed to the honor and advantage of science, and to the propagation of sound piety and useful knowledge; and his merits having been duly set forth unto us by the letters and testimony of three respectable physicians, we the master, fellows, and council of the united colleges of Aberdeen and Glasgow, do hereby, in consideration thereof, elect and appoint the said A. B. a Doctor of Medicine of this society; provided that the said A. B. do pay the accustomed fees, and conform himself in all things to the statutes and usages of the college. As witness our hands this 29th day of March, 1812.

S. Patrick, D. D. *Master*.
E. Clerke, S. T. P.
Joshua Corry, M. D.

I could not help looking frequently at the bearer of this extraordinary document, in the course of its perusal. When I had gratified my curiosity, I returned it to him with the observation that I had not the honor of recollecting any of the names attached to the diploma: that it was in an unusual form; and that I had never heard of such a college as the united college of Aberdeen and Glasgow. "Why surely, (he replied) you do not suppose the firm to be a real one: I thought you would have guessed that I come from the *Doctor* manufactory." "The *Doctor munufactory*," I exclaimed, "what is that?" "An establishment, (he answered) that has now existed three years, and been of great benefit and convenience to the medical profession in particular. I had concluded that it must be familiar to you; but since you seem to be unacquainted with its merits I will explain them. We

have had for some time a number of hands at work in the manufacture of such diplomas as the one before you, and I have no doubt that under the blessing of heaven our success will be of long continuance. We have applications from characters of every description, and from every quarter of the globe. If a young surgeon be ashamed of remaining a simple *mister*, or a young physician run through his finances before he has obtained a regular degree, or if he be refused his graduate's gown for incapacity; if a quack doctor be at a loss for the sanction of a professional title, or a lecturer be anxious to assume an appellation of dignity, we supply him, at a reasonable price, with the requisite credentials. It was but the other day, that a clergyman of the University of Oxford, a simple M. A. vacated his fellowship by marriage, and purchased a boarding-school in a country village, with the best prospect of a comfortable livelihood. In the vicinity, however, a rival seminary had been established by the Rev. Dr. Spintext; who, by virtue of his title, bore away from the simple master of arts, not only the precedence at village meetings, and the reputation of eloquence in the vestry, but the palm of tuition. *The doctor! The doctor!* resounded through the streets, and was repeated among the neighbours, while the simple mister was cast into the shade: at card parties the *lady* of *Doctor Spintext* totally eclipsed the simple Mrs. Moody; and who could send his darling to be taught by an M. A. when a D. D. was at hand? Mr. Moody applied to us in his distress, we dubbed him an L.L. D. in the course of the week, and he now out-elbows and out-trades his dignified predecessor.

"I knew a young gentleman resident at H. who had long endeavoured to insinuate himself into the affections of a young lady of beauty and fortune. He partly succeeded, but her father had been a colonel of volunteers, and she was shocked at the idea of marrying plain Mr. P. the surgeon. A surgeon's wife, she observed, was nobo-

dy; besides, who could endure the idea of having on the brass plate, such a vulgar inscription as Mr. Philpot, surgeon? 'Twas shocking, 'twas impossible. The young gentleman was in a terrible dilemma; he could not leave his business to go to college, and to languish in suspense was worse than death; he applied to me, and on paying down *fifteen pounds ten shillings*, was enabled to inscribe upon his plate, Henry Philpot, M. D. The lady was charmed with the alteration, and through my assistance they are a very happy couple.

"You may perhaps be disposed to wonder that these degrees cannot be assumed without our assistance. They sometimes are, but we offer better securities than are possessed by *self-dubbing doctors*. Neighbours are inquisitive, our parchments are useful to shew on emergencies, and if the trick be discovered, the doctor can lay the blame on us; he can persuade his friends that he only deceived others because he was deceived himself, and may curse the *doctor-making* swindlers with a good grace. Besides one half of our medical and clerical customers believe the diplomas to be genuine and effectual; the persuasive, though false, gives them useful confidence; and

"Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

"You see, Sir, that our claims on the gratitude of the community are great as they are uncommon, and I am now on the point of extending and confirming them. A manufactory of knighthoods, baronies, and earldoms, would, I am convinced, be profitable to ourselves, and useful to the country. The places from which the titles are deduced, and the orders with which the knights are invested, must be far removed from British cognizance. I have already in preparation several patents of knighthood in the name of St. Joachim of Russia, and shall be able in a few weeks to transform many private individuals into counts of the holy Roman empire. Either of these honors, Sir, is at your service, *gratis*."

I made him my best acknowledgments for his offer,

but assured him that I had no ambition to obtain a place among the counts and barons of the day. My interest in the medical profession was, I assured him, extremely limited, and my time too valuable to be wasted in attending to his speculations. I was provoked, I must confess, at the impudence of the fellow; and but for the love that I bear to my profession, and the interest I felt in his disclosures, I should have dismissed him without ceremony. He readily took the hint that I had given him, and hastened out of the room without thinking of his *diploma*; and I have therefore copied it for the benefit and security of the public.

It is by men like him, I presume, that the great body of empirics are enabled to assume the rank of doctors, and to endanger the lives, or ruin the constitution of their fellow creatures, undisturbed by the observation, or unamenable to the authority of the London college. From him also the numerous body of doctors in divinity, who obtrude themselves and their families into the seats of honor at every musical party and every public exhibition, in all probability derive their certificates of precedence. How far either the manufacturers of fictitious titles, or the individuals who purchase them, are subject to the observation of the law, it is now too late to enquire: discovery must in a case of this nature be in itself the prevention and the punishment of the crime, and may probably destroy in *embrio* a multitude of reverend doctors, and "holy" and "valorous" paragons of knighthood; and should this exposition be ineffectual, you may depend hereafter on a correct and ample list of the patents that shall be issued under the firm of "Patrick, Edwards, and Co."

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

MEDICUS.

INSANITY AND DEATH

Occasioned by the administration of Solomon's Balm of Gilead.

The lists of quack medicines that were appended to the first six numbers of the SCOURGE, were intended to form the preliminary tables to a long and extended exposition of pharmaceutical and empirical dishonesty. From the completion of so important a purpose, the editor was only prevented by observing that the confidence of his readers in the correctness of his statements, was by no means proportioned to the labour or the fidelity with which they were drawn up. The ignorant imagined that to obtain an accurate knowledge of the composition of medical *nostra*, was beyond the power of chemical analysis; and the incredulous either unwilling or unable to put the correctness of our tables to the test by personal experiment, and unaccustomed to expositions of a similar nature, in other periodical works, were disposed to regard them as a mixture of truth and falsehood; the production of prejudice rather than of truth, and better calculated to inflame than instruct the persons for whose use they were intended.

It is but an act of justice, therefore, to ourselves, and of kindness to those whom the perusal of these tables may have a tendency to guard against the depredations of quackery, to inform our readers that they were drawn up, after a minute examination, both analytical and synthetical, of every article enumerated, by the editor himself: that this examination was extended even to the proportions of the ingredients: that the real effects of the compounds, or the effects of their imprudent administration, were deduced either from a consideration of the medical properties of their constituent parts, or from actual experiment; and that the comparative list of prices was

compiled by an individual well versed in all the branches of pharmacy. The tables, though in the general impression unfavourable to quackery, were drawn up with the most perfect impartiality. Where we could ascribe even a negative virtue to a nostrum we have done so: and where the result of our analysis was doubtful, we have omitted the article altogether. Only one medicine has totally eluded not only our own enquiries but those of the French chemists. That it contains no mercury we are satisfied; and that it answers the purposes for which it is advertised, we can assert from frequent observation, and we were compelled to omit it in our lists, not from any unwillingness to acknowledge the utility of a valuable medicine, but because we have not yet been able to satisfy ourselves respecting the ingredients of which it is composed.

These observations have been chiefly excited by the publication of a long correspondence in the Leeds Mercury, between a Mr. Farnshaw who calls himself a respectable attorney, and a Mr. Forster, whose brother, according to the coroner's inquest, was poisoned by the administration of Solomon's Cordial Balm of Gilead.

It appears from the statement of Mr. Forster that having read the list of quack medicines contained in the SCOURGE, which describes the Cordial Balm of Gilead, as a tincture of cantharides in brandy, and as being on some occasions, and in consequence of imprudent administration, the immediate cause of madness and death, he endeavoured to dissuade him from using it; that his brother, however, would not listen to his advice; and that in five or six days after first beginning to take the medicine, he died raving mad, with a bottle of the cordial in his hand. In reply to this statement, Mr. Farnshaw endeavours to insinuate that the patient took considerably more than the prescribed or customary dose; and though no evidence is to be found to substantiate his assertion, and it is virtually contradicted by Mr. Forster, we shall admit that the unfortunate result of his experiment

was partly owing to his own imprudence. If it be admitted that Mr. Forster died in consequence of the operation of the cordial, a fact attested by his brother, and confirmed by the sentence of the coroner's inquest, it will be sufficient to enforce and exemplify the danger that arises to the community from the prevalence of quackery.

The quack who should offer to the notice of the world, a remedy that in moderate doses, was the occasion of insanity or death, would defeat his own purpose. No one ever suspected an individual of the tribe of such gross infatuation. Yet the perfect inertness or innocence of a quack medicine would be as inimical to its success as the most poisonous virulence. The empiric who wishes that his medicine should obtain an extensive sale, must be careful that it should have all the properties of a dram, and without being immediately deleterious, should be pleasing to the palate, and stimulating to the nerves. The former of these qualities may sometimes be dispensed with, but the latter is absolutely necessary. The patient mistakes the frenzy of inebriation for the natural glow of renovated health, and the languor and prostration of strength that always succeed to the application of powerful stimuli, render necessary a repetition of the dose. Partly from this cause, and partly from the natural anxiety of the weak and the afflicted to anticipate the regular and tardy operation of the nostrum, the patient indulges in more frequent applications to his bottle, than is consistent with his own safety, or with the possible intentions of the quack. As the latter possesses no immediate control over the purchaser of his medicine, he cannot prevent the mischiefs that he is aware must arise from its improper administration; and the individual who under the regular and constant attendance of a physician, would have been guided and controlled as circumstances would admit, becomes a sacrifice to the general interests of quackery.

The caution of the patient himself, and the vigilance of his attendants, is secured towards the administration of the most dangerous medicines of the shops by the notoriety of their properties. Every individual, even in the

lower ranks of life, is aware that the exhibition of laudanum, in unusual doses, is attended with frenzy or death. It is sufficient in common cases for the physician either to name the medicine, or to caution the patient and his attendants against its too copious use. Under the direction of a prudent surgeon, the solution of corrosive sublimate may be prescribed without any fear that its noxious properties will be called into action. But the quack is aware that to caution his purchasers against too copious a use of his remedy, would be to excite their fears; he dares not hint at the dangerous consequences that may possibly arise from its exhibition; and the patient swallows the Pabulum of Life, or the Solar Tincture, without suspecting that an augmentation of the regular dose by a single tea-spoonful may convert the cordial or the restorative into a virulent or mortal poison.

That this is not the language of exaggeration, can be attested by the experience of every regular physician, and the observation of every individual, who has had an opportunity of witnessing the manners, or relieving the distresses of the poor. It is well known that Godfrey's Cordial, a mixture of treacle, laudanum, and oil of sassafrass is the specific in the lower ranks of life for every disease to which children can be subject, and that each bottle contains sufficient laudanum to lull five children to sleep, yet that nothing is more common than for mothers to administer to their infants, sometimes half of the bottle, and sometimes the whole. There are quack worm powders, composed of articles extremely useful in regular formula, but equally dangerous when administered under peculiar circumstances, when the dose is too large, or in situations that prevent the observance of regimen. How many thousands of children are annually poisoned by these two medicines alone, we dare not calculate. At one period Mredant's Antiscorbutic Drops, composed chiefly of corrosive sublimate, was the favourite nostrum of every one afflicted with cutaneous complaints, and who could afford to pay half-a-guinea for a four

ounce bottle. On the trial of Ann Butterfield for poisoning Mr. Scawen, it was proved by decisive testimony that his death was occasioned by the administration of this remedy, and we have no doubt that many other nostrums advertised for the cure of the same disorder are equally deleterious.

If it be true, therefore, as Mr. Farnshaw asserts, that the death of Mr. Forster was occasioned by the imprudent administration of the Balm of Gilead, the statement has no tendency to counteract the prejudices we have always entertained against empirical remedies. The impossibility of preventing their imprudent administration, forms one important argument against their general circulation: and were they perfectly innocent in the majority of cases, and when properly employed, the possibility of a catastrophe like that which has occurred in the family of Mr. Forster would demand the intervention of the government, and the vigilance of the public.

But even to this negative merit they possess no claim. The truth is, that when used in moderation, empirical remedies are usually pernicious. It is impossible to invent a medicine that shall be adapted to every variety of symptom, or to frame directions that shall be accommodated to all the combinations of disease, and all the peculiarities of the human constitution. Dr. Solomon, for instance, recommends his Cordial Balm of Gilead for languor and debility; but it is possible that a weak and languid patient may be afflicted with an inflammation of the bladder, and its administration under those circumstances would be inevitable fatal. For cutaneous eruptions he prescribes his Anti-Impetigines, a preparation of corrosive sublimate; but cutaneous eruptions are frequently the accompaniments of a disease, that in itself arises from the unlimited exhibition of mercury.

The extent to which the baleful influence of quackery is diffused, can be but imperfectly estimated by those who witness the domestic and avowed administration of nostrums. Its most fatal operations are conducted in secrecy and si-

lence, and chiefly affect the apprentice boy who has been led into vice by the advertisement of a specific for juvenile indiscretions, domestic servants who dare not or will not disclose their indisposition to the families in which they live, young men cajoled into the power of quacks by promises of secrecy and safety; and all who are ashamed of their afflictions, or to whom the disclosure would be inconvenient. The prescriptions of a regular physician are seldom cheap and portable, and free from all unpleasant smell; the visits of a regular practitioner are sometimes the occasion of suspicion or enquiry, while a pill-box or a phial with infallible directions are easily concealed. The young, the inexperienced, and the delicate, are therefore the most frequent dupes and the most easy victims of empiricism; and the youth and the vigor of the country are legally murdered, that the duty on stamps may retain its level.

THE CRIMES AND MORAL CHARACTER OF BONAPARTE.

Sir,

For the last two years, the public have been misled, and the editors of the ministerial journals relieved from the labour of original composition, by the marvellous statements of the editor of the Antigallican who not content with openly espousing the cause of assassination, and compiling a thick octavo, abounding in stories more incredible than any that can be found in the Wonderful Magazine, has devoted many columns of his journal to the purpose of demonstrating by the relation of facts, the cruelty and malignity of Bonaparte. That Napoleon is an unfeeling tyrant, even the individuals who watched his early progress with enthusiasm, have been

convinced by the events of the last four years. The invasion of Spain, and the kidnapping of Ferdinand are acts of atrocity so unsusceptible of palliation as to have silenced the warmest of his advocates, and the admirers of his talents, have since the occurrence of these events been compelled to withdraw the favorable opinion, they were formerly disposed to entertain of his personal virtues. But there are degrees of wickedness, and to convert the tyrant into a monster, can answer the purposes of those alone whose writings depend for circulation on the credulity of the people. Bonaparte is actually so bad, that there is no occasion for his enemies to make him worse than he is. A cruel, unfeeling, despot is a character sufficiently hateful and atrocious, and will always be the object of general detestation, though he should not be a gratuitous murderer, a capricious torturer, and a desperate assassin of his faithful dependants.

The system pursued by Mr. Goldsmith originated in the enthusiasm of the Antijacobin party, who first began by witticisms on his stature, and seldom mentioned him without the ingenious appellation of *Little Boney*. They asserted that he was a puny self-conceited bastard: and that the barrenness of Madame Beauharnois was a decisive proof of the weakness of his pretensions to manhood, When he had proved, however, by his actions that he was not deficient in courage or capacity, they had recourse to more serious modes of aspersion. The narratives of Sir Robert Wilson, and its apparent confirmation by Dr. Wittman, furnished them with the materials of copious and eternal declamation. Nothing was heard but execrations of the poisoner and the murderer. The massacre of Jaffa was continually sounded in our ears, and its employment supplied the place, in men to whom the interests of the nation were committed, of that active and manly policy which was necessary to counteract the operations of his mighty genius.

And what was the real foundation on which the outcry of the antijacobins rested for its support? To substantiate

his relation, Sir Robert Wilson only says, "It was General Bon's division that fired on the troops. Inquire of any of the officers serving in it, if the facts be as I related. Inquire of the members of the Institute at Cairo, if the story of the poison be true. They have both been confirmed to me, but I cannot mention the names of those from whom I derived my information, on account of the dangers to which I should expose them by such a publication!" Dr. Wittman, in confirmation of Sir Robert, asserts that "four thousand of the wretched inhabitants, who had surrendered, and who had in vain implored the mercy of their conquerors, were, together with a part of the last Turkish garrison of El Arish (amounting, it is said, to five or six hundred,) dragged out in cold blood four days after the French had obtained possession of Jaffa, to the sand hills about a league distant, in the way to Gaza, and there most inhumanly put to death. I have seen the skeletons of these unfortunate victims, which lie scattered over the hills, a modern Golgotha, which remains a lasting disgrace to a nation calling itself civilized. It would give pleasure to the author of this work, as well as to every liberal mind, to hear these facts contradicted on substantial evidence. Indeed I am sorry to add that the charge of cruelty against the French general does not rest here. It having been reported that previously to the retreat of the French army from Syria, their commander in chief had ordered all the French sick at Jaffa to be poisoned, I was led to make the enquiry, to which every one who should have visited the spot would naturally have been directed, respecting an act of such singular, and as it should seem wanton inhumanity. It concerns me to have to state not only that such a circumstance was positively asserted to have happened,—but that while in Egypt, an individual was pointed out to us, as having been the executioner of these diabolical commands."

In this passage (observes the Edinburgh Reviewer,) Dr. Wittman offers no other evidence whatever of the

massacre, than that he had seen the skeletons scattered over the hills, and that the fact was universally believed. But how does Dr. W. know what these skeletons were that he saw? An oriental camp affected by the plague, leaves as many skeletons behind it as a massacre. And though the Turks bury their dead, the doctor complains of the very little depth at which they are interred; so that jackals, high winds, and a sandy soil, might, with great facility, undo the work of Turkish sextons. Let any one read Dr. Wittman's account of the camp near Jaffa, where the Turks remained so long in company with the military mission, and he will immediately perceive that a year after their departure, it might have been mistaken with great ease for the scene of a massacre. The spot which Dr. Wittman saw, might have been the spot where a battle had been fought. In the turbulent state of Syria, and amidst the variety of its barbarous inhabitants, can it be imagined that every bloody battle, with its precise limits and circumscriptions is accurately committed to tradition, and faithfully reported to enquirers. Besides, why scattered among hills? If five thousand men were marched out to a convenient spot, and massacred, their remains would be heaped up in a small space, a mountain of the murdered, a vast ridge of bones and rottenness. As the doctor has described the bone scenery, it has much more the appearance of a battle and pursuit, than of a massacre. After all, this gentleman lay eight months under the walls of Jaffa, whence comes it he has given no better evidence? Were five thousand men murdered in cold blood by a division of the French army, a year before, and did no man remain in Jaffa, who said I saw it done; I was present when they were marched out, I went the next day, and saw the scarcely dead bodies of the victims? If Dr. Wittman received any such evidence, why did he not bring it forward? If he never enquired for such evidence, how is he qualified to write upon the subject? If he enquired for it and could not find it, how is the fact credible? The author cannot make the same excuse as Sir Ro-

bert Wilson, for the suppression of his evidence, as there could be no probability that Bonaparte would wreak his vengeance on Soliman Aga, Mustapha Cawn, Sidi Mahomet, or any given Turks, upon whose evidence Dr. Wittman might have rested his accusation." Two such wicked acts as the poisoning and the massacre, have not been committed within the memory of man: within the same memory no such extraordinary person has appeared as he who is said to have committed them; and yet though their commission must have been public, no one has yet said *vidi ego*. The accusation still rests on hear-say.

It has been observed, indeed, that no officer of Bon's division has come forward in vindication of a criminal, who could repay sedulity so well. But even at the time when the accusation first appeared, Bonaparte was sufficiently versed in the policy of despotism, as to be aware that to acknowledge the authority of public opinion is less dangerous, than to labour beneath the most criminal imputations: the consul was too wise well as too proud to descend to exculpation; and an officious and uncalled for defence was more likely to be visited with the proofs of his displeasure, than received with real or apparent gratitude. Many years have now elapsed since the supposed commission of these atrocities. Our intercourse with Egypt has been frequent and unrestrained. The spot of ground in which the massacre is supposed to have taken place, has been visited by multitudes of travellers, and yet no additional evidence has been obtained in support of the accusation; nor has the story been sanctioned by the name of a single witness.

Considerations of personal policy would alone have dissuaded the general of the French armies from the commission of these atrocities. Admitting that to massacre the Turks in cold blood was a more obvious and effectual mode of destroying them than to refuse them quarter in battle: to leave his sick behind him, or to remove them to a distance where they might perish of hunger, would have been more easy and more politic than to destroy

them by poison. Their desertion might have been justified by the necessities of war; the destruction of five hundred men by poison could not be concealed, and its discovery would expose the general to the hatred and execration of his army. Even attributing to Bonaparte an intention to destroy his prisoners and his sick in the modes described, and admitting that the massacre of five thousand men, so completely that not one should escape, was within the verge of possibility, the story of the poisoning is in itself so marvellous as to require in those who believe it the utmost weakness of credulity. No poison can be so administered as to act with equal rapidity and efficacy on a number of individuals. If the sick in the camp of Bonaparte were poisoned, we must suppose that they all sat down to partake of their mess at the same instant, that the operation of the poison was instantaneous, and that at the same moment of time the pangs of death seized upon every individual of the multitude. That all these suppositions are impossible, is as obvious to the common reader, as to the physician. Out of five hundred men to whom poison is administered, some will fall sick before the rest, an alarm will be excited, antidotes will be employed by a few, others will abstain from further use of the viands, or the beverage in which the poison is infused, strength of constitution will overcome, in a considerable number, the operation of the poison, those who recover will relate the history of their comrades, and instead of the intended crime being so silently and securely accomplished, that not a survivor shall remain to disclose the fate of his companions, a hundred witnesses will arise to proclaim their martyrdom, and however ineffectually, to call for vengeance on the head of the murderer.

The murder of the Duke D'Enghien, and other atrocities of a similar character, are sufficient proofs of the cruelty of Bonaparte's disposition, and strikingly demonstrate that there is no act of inhumanity that he will not commit, when he conceives it to be dictated by political necessity. But we have no right to suppose that he plac-

tices cruelty merely for its own sake, and least of all that he wantonly pursues it, when to do so is evidently inconsistent with his personal interest, and with those maxims of policy by which the conduct of every successful tyrant must be directed. That red hot irons, for instance, were applied to the feet of Captain Wright, and that he died in the utmost extremity of torture, rests exclusively on the evidence of Goldsmith, and is totally inconsistent with probability. Bonaparte is too wise to risk the inevitable effects that the disclosure of such scenes would have on the public mind, for the mere gratification of his national antipathies; and there is no ground for believing that Captain Wright was more personally obnoxious to the Emperor of France than any other native of England.

The most favorite amusements of the ministerial writers have been to trace the intrigues of Bonaparte with his own sister-in-law, and to dwell in detail on the obliquity of his propensities. On the policy of embodying every foolish and malignant rumour that may have been circulated respecting the court of France, and encouraging the people of England to rest their opinions of princes and statesmen on the representation of spies and renegadoes, or the insinuations of gossipping malignity, I shall make no comment. The accusations against the female relatives of Buonaparte rest on no ostensible authority, and the last and most important charge is, in its own nature, unsusceptible of proof, and would only have received or retained admission in the prurient imaginations of a L. and a B. That these charges, however, are circulated with great assiduity in every part of this *moral* and *virtuous* nation, is evident not only from the daily tirades of the Morning Post, but from the extensive publication of such productions as that of which I enclose you a copy. The first of these articles you will observe is a scandalous chronicle of Bonaparte's parentage, education, and present habits. It is entitled "*Chanson Anti-Corsique,* faite a Paris, en 1802, par Barre, Sur L'air Du Cure de Pomponne. The fourth and fifth verses are only equalled by the paragraphs of B.

De la veuve de Beauharnois
Admirons l'allégresse;
Des Cisalpins et des Français
Je suis reine et maitresse;
Dit-elle, arrangeant son chignon,
A présent je me pique,
De posséder le plus grand *con-*
Sul de la République.

Cependant le Corse est épris
De Rustan qui sait plaire,
L'un des jeunes Mamelucs pris
Aux plains du Grand Caire;
Avec ce gros et beau mignon
Il oublie l'antique
Josephine, de plus grand *con-*
Sul de la République.

To the first stanza is appended a note on the name of Marbœuf. "Marbœuf, officier Francois, dont la mere de Bonaparté s'accommodoit fort bien, du consentement de son mari, pauvre procureur de la petite ville d'Ajaccio, en Corse. Marbœuf eut soin de son bâtard, Napoleone."

Now if it be really true that Napoleon is the offspring of adulterous intercourse, it would surely have testified the discretion of the writer had he inquired before the publication of his verses, whether the circulation of the fact was likely to degrade him in the eyes of Europe. It is not the bastard who, in spite of all the obstacles that fortune threw in his way, obtained the dominion of Europe, who is an object of pity or derision, but the people over whom he reigns, and the contemporaries to whose wickedness and pusillanimity he owes his elevation. It is to be wished that his present libellers, had a few years ago exercised their swords with as much enthusiasm or dexterity as their pens. The accusation of illegitimacy, however, so prudently brought forward by a loyalist, who must have known that royal bastardy is far from disgraceful, the note on Rustan, and the second of these papers, entitled, "Monologue de l'Emperor Jaune, le nommé

Napoleone Buonaparté sur le destruction de son digne émule et rival, l'Empereur noir, le nommé Jacques Dessalines," can excite no astonishment as the productions of a writer who believes the king of Rome to be a suppositious infant! " *Ce n'est qu'un masque, quoiqu'on la fasse accoucheur!*"

A Travelled Englishman.

London, June 20th, 1812.

THE WHIPS, No. VI.

A HUNTER AFTER FAME.

In former times the accession to the first magistracy of the city of London was regarded as a decisive testimony of the virtues of the individual on whom that honor was conferred, and was the great object of ambition to the industrious and aspiring portion of the civic community. In the old dramatists and historians the portrait of a lord mayor is always that of a virtuous, benevolent, and dignified character, who has raised himself to affluence by a long and persevering progress in the pursuits of commerce: respected by the wealthy for his integrity, and beloved by the poor for his benevolence: combining in his official situation, hospitality with economy, and moderating the severity of justice by his personal lenity. To imitate such men, and to look forward to the situation they had filled as the best reward of application and honesty, were the first duties impressed by the old upon the young, and were the constant themes of civic declamation. The history of Whittington and his cat, had it no other merit would deserve attention as the only remaining specimen of the nursery tales, by which the rising generation were taught to look forward to the honors of the Mansion House.

" Well done Whittington,
Lord Mayor of London,"

had about sixty years ago all the force of a magical incantation, and inspired the school-boy and the apprentice with flattering visions of future greatness.

Partly from the diffusion of trade through so many channels, from the gradual obliteration of those boundaries that once divided the commercial from the fashionable, the literary, and the political part of the community, and from the unworthiness of the individuals on whom the office has lately devolved, the mayoralty is no longer an object of general or persevering ambition. If a little trouble will obtain it, the wealthy citizen has no objection to enjoy for a year the honors of its brief authority; but no man, we believe, would now be excited to a long perseverance in commercial pursuits, by the mere expectation of becoming, at a future period, the first magistrate of the city. Even the apprentice has been taught to laugh at a dignity of which the chief accompaniment is expence; and the public has not learned from the experience of the last ten years to lay aside its prepossessions against the annual possessors of the Mansion House.

The committal of the interests of the city and the liberties of its inhabitants to a magistrate, who obtains the office by courtesy, and whose qualifications are the last object of enquiry, though sanctioned by the practice of other corporations, and by the charter under which they claim their privileges, is in itself, impolitic and unjust, and ought to become the subject of legislative examination. If the virtues or the services of an individual have entitled him to the gratitude of his fellow citizens there are other modes of honoring and rewarding him than by his election to an office, of which the duties can only be adequately fulfilled by him, whose talents and whose information are equal to his honesty. When it is considered that cases involving the most difficult questions of law, and circumstances requiring the most patient investigation, or the most conspicuous personal intrepidity, demand his daily and hourly attention, the absurdity of

MAHARAJA SERFOJI SARASWATI MAHAL

committing so important an office even to a well-meaning individual, whose life has been spent in the manufacture of pins, or the marking of calicoes, is not less evident than the utility of each of these tradesmen, when they confine their talents to their respective professions. But if, as may easily be the case under the present constitution of the city, a merchant who is not only a driveller but a drunkard, whose youth disqualifies him for the gravity of official business, while his ignorance is only equalled by his indolence, and who has been indebted to fortune for his wealth, rather than to his industry, may be elevated to the mayoralty for no other reason than because he is rich, the injustice and absurdity are still more evident; and if it be possible that a young man, whose chief characteristics are a superabundance of animal spirits, and an utter disregard of the dull formalities of business, can be exalted to such a situation through the influence of wealthy or respectable relatives, the interests of the corporation itself, require an immediate change in its constitution.

How frequently the civic chair has been occupied by men who have sprung from the lowest classes of the community, and have retained in that responsible situation, their original habits and their native ignorance; by individuals of whom the chief and the most successful study has been the art of eating, and who were never remarkable for any other virtue than obtrusive and preposterous loyalty, it might perhaps be dangerous to remind our civic readers. In spite of the law of libel, however, we may call to their recollection the mayoralty of Brackley Kennet, Esquire; who, during the riots of 1780, remained inactive in the Mansion House, while the multitude threatened the destruction of the city. In the early part of his life he had been an ostler, and the newsmongers of the day assert that he concealed himself in a stable. It is certain, however, that when called to account for his misconduct, he endeavoured to defend himself by ascribing his concealment to a "fit of temerity." How many legal questions of importance to the liberty or happiness of the subject, may have been submitted to the decision of this "chief magis-

trate of the first city of the world," the chroniclers of the times have forgotten to inform us.

We do not mean to compare the individual before us with Brackley Kennet; but we may be excused for asking what peculiar qualifications he possesses for the office to which he has been exalted? The profits of a moderate business as an attorney cannot enable him, unassisted, to support his official establishment with a splendor and liberality worthy of the city; and to place in that situation an individual who must be indebted to the assistance of others, was cruel and unjust. Mr. ——— may have virtues, however, that induced his brother citizens in spite of his obscurity, and of the mediocrity of his fortune, and notwithstanding the superior claims of older and more experienced aldermen to make him the guardian of their rights and liberties, and the daily and conspicuous display of those virtues must be peculiarly gratifying to every benevolent and patriotic mind. As our opinion, however, of the qualifications of a lord mayor are somewhat different from those which in the instance appear before us to have obtained the unanimous suffrage of the city, we shall enable the reader to decide between us, by describing them as correctly as may be possible after a distant and hasty observation.

It would appear then that the first duty of the chief magistrate of the city of London is to regard the great body of merchants and traders who surround him as a "low-lived," vulgar, ignorant, contemptible set of people, utterly unworthy the notice of a fine gentleman, and of no other possible use than to contribute to the comforts and luxuries of the refined and elevated circles of society. The citizens, over whose interests he is called to preside, have possessed, it is true, the immemorial right of access to the Mansion-House, and their predecessors of former ages were, in former times, the most welcome and most distinguished of its visitors. But in the present age of cultivation and intelligence, the case is materially changed, and the cit of Lombard-street must yield to the

lounger of Bond-street. Five out of six of the cards of invitation must be addressed to titled ideots and fashionable adultresses, and the ancient and respectable families of the city carefully excluded from the festivities of which they were once the most conspicuous ornaments.

Consistently with this mode of thinking, the old fashioned principle of encouraging the tradesmen of the city, is exploded as vulgar, and unworthy of a man of spirit and a fine gentleman. Every article of luxury intended for the Mansion-House, must be purchased at the *west end*; the poultry that has been transferred in the morning from Leadenhall to Oxford-market, is purchased from the latter of these places at double the original price; and no vintner is employed who lives within a mile of Temple Bar. How much the taste of his fowls, and the flavor of his wines are superior to those of his humble predecessors, the citizens themselves are debarred from the opportunity of determining.

It would appear also, that to a modern lord mayor the duties of his office are only secondary to those of whippism: that nothing becomes the chief magistrate of a great city so much as to ride up one street and down another, for the purpose of displaying his horses and his liveries; that to become conspicuous in Bond-street and Rotten-row is perfectly consistent with a paternal regard to the happiness and security of the citizens, and that to determine of what colour the pannels of his carriage shall be painted, is a more important object of meditation to an individual enjoying a responsible office, than the business that he *might be expected* to perform. His devotion to these pursuits will be more laudable and more gratifying, if the multitude be at once amazed by his profusion, and puzzled to conjecture from what source the means of supporting so much extravagance is derived; if they are not aware that his sister was married to a director of the bank; and that individual vanity is assisted by family prudence.

That the humble citizen whom accident has raised to

the possession of temporary rank, and whose mind has been intoxicated and bewildered by his sudden elevation, should become the derision of fashionable loungers, who luxuriate at his table, and are content to relieve the uniformity of dissipated life by an occasional visit, at "that odd place, the Mansion House," detracts in no degree from the happiness or self-complacency of the individual. "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise:" if he supposes while Bond-street is laughing at his equestrian attitudes, that its loungers are admiring the beauty of his horse, and the grace and elegance of its rider: if he conceives that his proneness to display is regarded by his fellow-citizens as any thing better than a foolish propensity to extravagance; or can persuade himself that the circles in which he assumes the airs and graces of a Chesterfield will ever mistake him for any thing but a plodding attorney, elevated by the caprice of fortune, to a temporary exhibition in the temple of civic folly; the happiness is all his own, while the expence and mortification belong to his relatives and his fellow-citizens. As an occasional reviewer of sham fights between the Tower Hamlets and the Train Bands, as the copier of legal instruments from the Attorney's Pocket Book, or even as the retailer of the good things and profound observations of his brother-in-law, Mr. T. we gladly acknowledge his claims to mediocrity; nor should we have introduced him into the society of the Whips, had not our regard for the interests of the city overcome our respect for his qualifications in these capacities. We shall be happy to meet him on level ground, unadorned by the attributes of civic majesty, and unattended by the knights of the shoulder-knot. As a plain man he will always obtain our good will; as a would-be fine gentleman, we regard him as the rest of his visitors regard him, with mingled feelings of pity and derision.

MODERN PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING.

SIR,

You have long lashed the vices and the follies of the age, and have sought by the dignity and acrimony of your censures to amend the times in which you live. Perhaps, however, it may not be beneath your views to notice the guiltless and merely ludicrouse rrors of your contemporaries; and sure I am that your readers, if they smile at the following anecdotes, will smile without owning, at the moment, the existence of any malign or unworthy passion in their bosoms. To make men laugh, if not always so lofty an aim, is sometimes as useful a one as to make them weep, or to fill them with virtuous indignation against the vicious and corrupt.

I do not mean to enlarge upon the public utility of reporting, a practice which has created a new era in our history, and a practice which, in my opinion, secures beyond any other some of the chief blessings of our constitution. By it, public men are rendered responsible to the public, and a member of the House of Commons stands up in his place with the constant conviction that his constituents will know every word he utters. What influence such a feeling will have upon a man's conduct, I need not say: and my object indeed is, not to inquire into that, but to exhibit a laughable instance of parliamentary reporting, upon the authenticity of which you and your readers may confidently rely.

During the scarcity of 1800, when parliament was employed in devising means to alleviate the distresses of the country, they had sat deliberating one night till a very late hour, when Mr. B—y, a well-known reporter at that time, and now well known as practising in our inferior courts, found himself irresistibly overpowered with sleep. In the middle of one of Mr. Whitbread's speeches he closed his eyes, and resigned himself to the soft dominion

of Morpheus. Mr. Whitbread was descanting upon the excellent and nutritious qualities of potatos, as an article of food for the lower classes of society. In about half an hour Mr. B. awoke in some consternation, apprehensive that he had lost, perhaps, a brilliant speech that might have been delivered during his repose. He eagerly inquired of those who sat about him what had been said, and unluckily for him there happened to sit next him a facetious being whose name was Mark Supple, a well-known character in the annals of reporting. "Good God," said Mark, "have you been asleep?" "Yes, I have," replied Mr. B. "what has been done?" "Done!" rejoined Mark, "why, one of the most singular and important speeches has been made by Mr. Wilberforce, that has been uttered this session!" "Is it possible!" answered Mr. B. "can you give me some idea of it; some outline from your notes?" "Willingly," replied Mark, and began thus:

"After Mr. Whitbread had concluded in praise of potatoes, Mr. Wilberforce rose, and spoke nearly as follows:

"Sir, I have listened with great attention and pleasure to the speech of the Hon. Gentleman who has just sat down: and, Sir, I have listened with the more attention because he spoke in praise of a root, the loss of whose virtues I shall never cease to deplore in my own person. Sir, he has told you, in the language of Adam Smith, that the strongest and most robust men in London, the Irish coal-heavers, draymen, &c. were fed upon little else than that nutritious vegetable, and he hence infers its value as a wholesome article of food. How much reason I have to regret that my parents did not feed me upon that root in the early part of my life; for, look, Sir, at my dwindled form, my meagre limbs, my spare and emaciated body; should I have exhibited such a melancholy proof of weakness and skeleton-like infirmity if I had been fed upon potatos? No, Sir, I might then have stood up in this house without being ashamed of my own shadow, and without looking like the Death of the House of Commons."

In language nearly similar to this Mr. B. drew out the report, and it actually appeared the next morning in the paper on which he was employed. It may, perhaps, excite some doubt, whether any person could be so dull as to credit the probability of an harangue like this: the fact, however, was so, as *many in London can testify besides myself.* What effect it had upon Wilberforce may easily be conceived. The next day he hastened down to the house with the paper in his hand, to complain of a breach of privilege. Every member sat in mute attention, and Mr. Wilberforce began: but when he came to that part of the report which described his "skeleton like infirmity," and his "emaciated form," such a burst of laughter rung in his astonished and mortified ears, that he was totally unable to proceed with his complaint, and the business ended with an apology on the part of the editor, and a statement of the real cause of the misrepresentation.

The same gentleman exhibited another proof of his sagacity as a reporter. A bill was brought in to regulate harbor dues in the Isle of Man. Mr. B. heard the title of this bill read, but with such an unfortunate obtuseness of hearing that he CHRONICLED it down "harbouring Jews in the Isle of Man." His orthodoxy was offended at this, and he not only reported the proceeding in its proper place, but wrote a paragraph in the same paper to call the attention of the public to a measure which was so evidently calculated to endanger the security of the establishment. "Harbour Jews in the Isle of Man! What might be the effect of such a legislative provision! If a harbouring place was thus secured to the Jewish nation, in defiance of the prophecies of religion, might we not expect the most awful visitations of Providence upon our devoted land?" Having vented his alarms thus, he retired to his pillow with the sweet consciousness of having offered his mite to the support of holy mother Church. I need not add, that the admirers of parliamentary eloquence and proceedings were agreeably amused the next day when they perused this notable specimen of inge-

nuity, commented upon with such warm and enthusiastic veneration of our holy religion.

There is only one thing that can add any zest to these anecdotes, and that one thing is their veracity; a quality for which I can assure you there is an abundance of security. Many will read them, who will instantaneously acknowledge their truth, and perhaps the truly worthy and respectable person who has provided them for the amusement of mankind, may read them himself, and smile at their accuracy.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

June 14*th*, 1812. A. B.

LOTTERY GUINEAS.

In passing through the streets of this vast metropolis, I cannot but admire the various ingenious schemes adopted by different tradesmen to arrest the attention of the passenger, with the view of procuring a preference in the sale of their different commodities; but that which struck me as the most forcible appeal, was the sight of certain strangers in the windows of some lottery offices previous to the drawing on the 4th of June last. It is astonishing with what complacency and delight this their partial reappearance was hailed by the passers by; nor were a few induced from this golden lure to go in and give up a certain possession, for this next to uncertain reversion. This circumstance puts me very much in mind of the device of the Jew pedlars, who in making their purchases, are in the habit of shewing the money to the sellers, and I have known this often turn the scale, when the bare mention of the price seemed to have little or

no effect. I am fully persuaded that many a person who turns away from a bidder on hearing *only* of the sum, would be inclined to dispose of his goods on seeing it in *specie.* We may talk of millions with apparent indifference, as we do when conversing on our national debt, &c. without having any fixed conception of the immensity of the sum; when let but a thousand guineas be presented to our sight, our coolness disappears, and we are struck with a temporary surprize. These and similar impressions on the human mind, arising from the idea of any advantage to be obtained, seem to be well understood by the characters above alluded to; and hence we have the cheapest booksellers in the world, the cheapest hosiers, the cheapest tailors, &c. nor should I be much surprized to see some new terms invented to express superiority, though at the expence of grammar and common sense. How much has the word *original* been abused till its very existence has been lost in the number of its claimants—to digress, a circumstance occurred whilst I was at Hambro', wherein this word was very ludicrously used. On the Prince of Hesse taking temporary possession of that town in the name of the Danish government, during the northern coalition, an inn-keeper who kept the Grey Ass, and who had a very good business, thought he might increase it by changing this sign to that of the Prince: unfortunately for him it had a contrary tendency, and a neighbouring vintner who had adopted his old sign, drew away the major part of his customers—to repair this effect, yet being unwilling to go to the expence of a new painting, he had written under the representation of the Prince, "this is the Original Grey Ass," and the Prince of Hesse, who was no conjuror, has ever since held that title undisputed.

To conclude, I have no objection that those who are caught by such deceitful baits should learn, by buying their experience, that these so cheap books are faulty and defective editions, the cheap stockings likely to fall into holes on putting on, and these surprisingly cheap

garments half sewed and of very inferior cloth and materials—it is perhaps the best and most effective way of their attaining that knowledge, and worth an hundred cautions; but I cannot so lightly consider the deceptions that attach to the person and constitution: these cannot be too greatly reprobated, nor their evil effects guarded against by too frequent appeals to the public. How many a good head of hair has been destroyed by application to turn its colour, because it happened to be of a carotty or unfashionable hue,---how many a good complexion has been spoilt by baneful cosmetics---how many persons with slight and curable complaints, have, thinking to go a short way to work, entailed on themselves the evils they wished so speedily to get rid of, and and finally, alas! how many persons possessing perfect health of body, but fanciful minds, have, by recourse to soi-disant universal remedies, precipitated themselves into an untimely grave, on whom might well be written the Italian epitaph.

Stavo bene, per Star, meglior, sto qui.
I was well, I would be better, and here I lie.

These latter evils are of such real consequence, and involve the happiness of so considerable a part of the human race, that I intend to make them the subject of a further and a more enlarged discussion in my next.

HISTORY OF THE LATE NEGOCIATION.*

On Friday, the 22d of May, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent was pleased to command the Marquis Wellesley to submit to his Royal Highness's gracious consideration the plan of an administration properly adapted to the present crisis of affairs: his lordship regarding it

* We have adhered, as much as possible, to the language, (however inelegant) of the negociators themselves.

as necessary, in the first instance, to advert to certain practical principles, which should, in his opinion, constitute the basis of the system of measures calculated to meet the actual exigencies of the country, and conceiving it to be desirable to reduce those principles within the narrowest compass, omitting the discussion of several topics, that however important in themselves, could not be deemed of "such instantaneous pressure," nor were likely to involve so much difference of opinion, he drew up the two following propositions, as comprising the practical principles on which an efficient administration might be formed:

First, That the state of the laws respecting the Roman Catholics, and the claims of that body of his majesty's subjects should be taken into immediate consideration, with a view to a conciliatory adjustment of those claims.

Secondly, That the war on the peninsula should be prosecuted on a scale of adequate vigor.

With a view to ascertain the views and dispositions of all parties with regard to their general principles, previously to submitting to his Royal Highness any names of persons, Lord Wellesley communicated to Lords Grey and Grenville personally, and to Lord Liverpool through the medium of Mr. Canning, the preceding propositions, particularly explaining at the same time, that he had received no authority from his Royal Highness to form an administration, or to communicate with any particular party or description of persons; that his Royal Highness had been apprized of the necessity of Lord Wellesley's holding such intercourse with all parties, as might enable him to prepare a plan for his Royal Highness's approbation; and that in this transaction he was merely the instrument of executing his Royal Highness's commands, neither claiming nor desiring for himself any station in the administration which it was in his Royal Highness's contemplation to form. He also communicated with Lord Moira, and verbally with Lord Erskine

and Mr. Sheridan, who both expressed their concurrence in the principles already stated.

To the communication of Mr. Canning Lord Liverpool replied (May 23d) in the name of himself and his colleagues, that they do not think it necessary to enter into any discussion of the principles stated in Mr. Canning's memorandum, because they all feel themselves bound, particularly after what has recently passed, to decline the proposal of becoming members of an administration to be formed by Lord Wellesley. Lord Melville also addressed a letter to Mr. Canning, in which he stated his strong repugnance to join an administration of which Lord Wellesley was the head, but intimated at the same time his willingness to act with an administration formed on the basis mentioned in Mr. Canning's memorandum; though he thinks it improbable that any consideration which the government can give to the subject of the restrictions on the Roman Catholics, will enable it to propose such a system as will wholly satisfy their claims, and at the same time afford that degree of security to the protestant establishment which is generally felt to be necessary.

The reply of Lords Grey and Grenville after the usual professions of affection for their country, congratulates Lord Grenville on his powerful exertions in support of the claims of the Roman Catholics, and assures him that they will warmly support any proposal made by any ministers for the immediate consideration of those claims, with a view to their conciliatory adjustment. On the second point they are of opinion that the direction of military operations in an extensive war, and the more or less vigorous prosecution of those operations, are questions not of principle but of policy, to be regulated by circumstances, in their nature temporary and fluctuating, and in many cases known only to persons in official stations. On such questions therefore, no public man, either in or out of office, can undertake for more than a deliberate and dispassionate consideration, according to the circumstances of the case, as it may appear, and to such means of infor-

mation as may then be within their reach. But they cannot in sincerity conceal from Lord Wellesley that in the present state of the finances, they entertain the strongest doubts of the practicability of an increase in any branch of the public expenditure.

The answers of Lord Holland and Lansdowne merely express their acquiescence in the opinions of their noble friends. Lord Moira declares that a plan of government, on the basis proposed by Lord Wellesley, would have his most cordial wishes, observing incidentally that the question relative to the orders in council may be deemed in effect settled by the evidence before the two houses, and that the active correction of internal abuses must be confidently assumed, as the object of such a ministry as is likely to be formed through his lordship's instrumentality.

On the 27th of May, Lord Melville called upon Mr. Canning, and informed him, in answer to certain questions put by Mr. Canning on the day before, that Lord Wellesley's commission was considered by the Prince Regent as at an end; and that the persons then holding offices, only held them till their successors should be appointed. Mr. Canning having received a memorandum of the communication, transmitted it to Lord Wellesley, who took the earliest opportunity of communicating it to Lords Grey and Grenville. It was succeeded by mutual explanations between Lords Grey and Grenville, the Marquis of Wellesley, and Mr. Canning, respecting some apparent discordance between the minutes of conference, as drawn up by Lord Wellesley and Mr. Canning. Such is a brief, but accurate history of what may be termed the first negociation.

On the first of June, Lord Wellesley stated to Lords Grey and Grenville that he had received full authority from the Prince Regent to form an administration under his Royal Highness's commands, and that he was specially authorized to communicate with Lords Grey and Grenville on the subject: that the two propositions stat-

ed in Lord Wellesley's minute of May 23d, and subsequently explained in the letters which had passed between Lord Wellesley and Lord Grey of the dates of the 27th, 28th, and 29th of May, 1812, were intended by his Royal Highness to constitute the foundation of his administration; that his Royal Highness had signified his pleasure that Lord Wellesley should conduct the formation of the administration in all its branches, and should be first commissioner of the treasury, and *Lord Moira,* Lord Erskine, and Mr. Canning should be members of the cabinet; that it was probable that a cabinet formed on an enlarged basis must be extended to the number of twelve or thirteen members; that the Prince Regent wished Lords Grey and Grenville on the part of their friends to recommend to his Royal Highness's approbation the names of four persons if the cabinet should consist of twelve, and of five persons if the cabinet should consist of thirteen, to be appointed by his Royal Highness to fill such stations in his councils as might hereafter be arranged.

That his Royal Highness left the selection of the names to Lords Grey and Grenville, without any exception, or personal exclusion: that in completing the new arrangements the Prince Regent had granted to Lord Wellesley the entire liberty to propose for his Royal Highness's approbation, the names of any persons now occupying stations in his R. H.'s council, or of any other persons: and that if the propositions made to Lords Grey and Grenville should be accepted as the outlines of an arrangement, all other matters would be discussed with the most anxious solicitude to promote harmony and general accommodation.

To the communication of Lord Wellesley, Lords Grey and Grenville reply, that although no sense of the public distress, no personal feelings of whatever description would have prevented them under such circumstances from accepting with dutiful submission, any situations in which they could have hoped to serve his Royal Highness usefully and honourably; it yet appears

to them that the proposal stated to them by Lord Wellesley cannot justify any such expectation.

They are invited (they observe) not to discuss with his lordship or any other public man, according to the usual practice in such cases, the various and important considerations, both of measures and of arrangements, which belong to the formation of a new government in all its branches, but to recommend to his Royal Highness a measure limited by previous stipulation, of persons willing to be included in a cabinet of which the outlines are already definitely arranged.

To this proposal they declare that they cannot accede without the sacrifice of the very object which the House of Commons has recommended, the formation of a strong and efficient administration. They enter not into an examination of the relative proportions, or of the particular arrangements which it has been judged necessary thus previously to establish. It is to the principle of disunion and jealousy that they object: to the supposed balance of contending interests in a cabinet so measured out by preliminary stipulations. The project presented to them tends, as they think, to establish within the cabinet itself a system of counteraction inconsistent with the prosecution of any uniform and beneficial course of policy. They must, therefore, request permission to decline all participation in a government constituted on such principles; satisfied as they are that the certain loss of character which must arrive from it to themselves would be productive only of disunion and of weakness in the administration of the public interests.

On this reply, Lord Moira observes in an explanatory letter that when the most material of the public objects which were to be the immediate ground of that cabinet's exertion, had been previously understood between the parties, it is difficult for him to comprehend which principle of counteraction could be introduced. With regard to the indication of certain individuals, he assures them that it was a measure adopted through the highest spirit

of fairness to them and their friends. Mr. Canning's name was mentioned, because Lord Wellesley would have declined office without him; and it was a frankness to apprize them of it: and Lord Erskine's and his (Lord Moira's) own were stated with a view of shewing that Lord Wellesley so far from having any jealousy to maintain a preponderance in the cabinet, actually left a majority to those who had been accustomed to concur upon most public questions; and that nobleman specified Lord Erskine and himself, (Lord Moira,) that Lords Grey and Grenville might see the number submitted for their exclusive nomination was not narrowed by the necessity of adverting to them. The choice of an additional member of the cabinet left to them, must prove "how undistinguishable" the interests of Lords Grey and Grenville were from those of Lords Wellesley and Moira, the embarrassments of a numerous cabinet being well known. The reference to members of the late cabinet, or other persons, was always to be coupled with the established point that they were such as could concur in the principles laid down as the foundation for the projected ministry, and the statement was principally dictated by the wish to shew that no system of exclusion could interfere with the arrangements which the public service might demand. On the selection of those persons, the opinion of Lords Grey and Grenville, and the others whom they might bring forward in the cabinet, were to operate as freely as that of their colleagues, even with regard to the subordinate offices. Lord Moira concludes his letter, by observing that the spirit of fairness could not have been carried farther than in this negociation, and by expressing his regret that an arrangement so important for the interests of the country should go off upon points which he cannot but think wide of the substance of the case.

The second negociation was terminated by a letter from Lord Wellesley approving of Lord Moira's explanation to Lord Grey, and announcing the resignation of his commission, and by a note from Lord Grey to Lord Moi-

ra, in which he says, that the grounds of the opinions as expressed by himself and Lord Grenville had been distinctly stated in the joint letter to Lord Wellesley, and cannot be altered by a private explanation.

Lord Wellesley, in a letter dated the 3d of June, informs Lords Grey and Grenville that he received their lordships' letter with the most sincere regret. It would have afforded him, he observes, some consolation if the continuance of the authority vested in him by the Prince Regent had enabled him under his Royal Highness's commands to offer to their lordships a full and candid explanation of those points, in his minute of the first of June, which their lordships appear to have entirely misapprehended; but as his Royal Highness had been pleased to intimate to him his pleasure, that the formation of a new administration should be entrusted to other hands, he had requested permission to decline all further concern in the transaction; he requests at the same time permission to enter into some explanatory observations respecting the correspondence that has already passed. To this letter succeeds another in which he expresses his approval of the letter of Lord Moira: and the answer of Lord Grey, expressing his personal regard for Lord Wellesley, closes the second negotiation.

The third negociation was begun by an unauthorized communication from Lord Moira, requesting the favour of an interview, and expressing his intention, if the result be satisfactory, of soliciting the permission of the Prince Regent to address them formally. Lords Grey and Grenville observe, in their reply, that personal communication with Lord Moira will always be acceptable and honourable to them, but that no advantage is likely to result from pursuing this subject by unauthorized discussions, and in a course different from the usual practice. The letter of Lord Moira, in reply to this, informs them that he has received the authority of the Prince Regent to communicate with them on the formation of a new administration, and requests them to name the time

and place of interview: which accordingly took place in the presence of Lord Erskine. Previous, however, to any discussion on the principles of general policy, their lordships were of opinion that it was necessary to obtain a mutual understanding on a point of considerable moment, and they, therefore, begged permission to put to Lord Moira a preliminary question, on the answer to which would depend their further explanation of their sentiments. They wished, therefore, to be informed, "whether in the new arrangements it was proposed to grant them that power of changing the officers of the household, which had usually been granted on the accession of the new ministry?" To this question Lord Moira replied, that he laboured under no restraint or limitation on the subject thus introduced; that the attention of the Prince had not been directed, in the slightest degree, to the point alluded to; but that on public grounds, he could not permit himself to concur in any arrangements that had for their object, the removal of the officers of the household. Lords Grey and Grenville replied to this assurance that they themselves were influenced in the proposition of the question by public motives, and that after the declaration of Lord Moira, the negociation must be regarded as at an end. It appears, from subsequent evidence, that previous to this interview, Lord Moira and Mr. Sheridan were aware that if the opposition succeeded to power, the household were determined to resign; that Lord Moira gave no hint of this determination to Lords Grey and Grenville, and that notwithstanding his declaration that the attention of the Prince Regent had not been directed to the point at issue, he had himself enquired of his Royal Highness if he was willing, if necessity required the sacrifice, to give up the household, and on being answered in the affirmative, assured him that not one of the individuals connected with it should be removed.

To the Editor of the Scourge.

Sir,

Conceiving the main object of your work to be the holding up vice to marked reprehension, and as "vice to be hated needs but to be seen," I have taken the liberty of addressing these few lines to you on a subject of all others, the most requiring reform; namely, the number of unfortunate females at present existing in the neighbourhood of Blackfriars-road, particularly in several streets opposite the Surrey Theatre.

I am the more induced to call your attention to this subject, as from a circumstance recently come to my knowledge, I am but too well acquainted with the dreadfully ruinous effects arising from the toleration of the numerous houses in the above neighbourhood; whose inhabitants, too often the dupes of the artful men and unprincipled women of whom they are rented, are compelled, for their own livelihood, to draw an unwary youth within their web, and like their type, the spider, refrain not till their victim pay the forfeit of his temerity by the sacrifice of his health, or till his existence is almost rendered a bane, and he drops unheeded and unpitied into the grave. That the evil I have thus pointed out to your attention, great as it is, must exist, at least, under some restrictions, is a melancholy fact; that the practice of the ancients must be also conceded as a mark of patronage I will admit; but it surely is not proper, at this age, when the empire has attained a degree of civilization unknown in the best of times; it surely cannot be proper that the eye of decency should be shocked by the unblushing exhibition of girls in a state of nudity, in the broad glare of day-light, alike to be pitied for the system of crime in which they live, and for the degree of impunity with which they are thus suffered to shame "Nature in her handiest work!"

Sir, If we are even disposed to let these unfortunate

girls remain as at present, it surely must fill your mind with horror on learning the number of young men, principally apprentices of tradesmen in the city, who are in the habit of almost nightly retiring to this hot-bed, this sink of villany, this almost hell on earth, where vice lifts its hydra head in undismayed glory, unheeded and unappalled. Here are the Millwoods and the Barnwells of future times! here they sip their fancied pleasures! here the fond object of his mother's love, the hope, the prospect of his father's life, is hailed with joy by the deluding Circes of modern times; here the soft blandishments of the milder sex, intended for man's happiness, are laid open for his destruction; and the lip sucks in poison from that form, whose original design is, alas! but too fatally reversed. I trust, Sir, I have said enough to call your attention to this subject. It is not for me to lay down any rule or plan by which we might act; but in the hope that the world will be favoured with some observations from your pen, I subscribe myself, Yours, &c.

A TRADESMAN.

FASHION.

In this enlightened age, when human reason is so puffed up, and so jealous of her dignity, that she pauses before she admits of even the most self-evident facts, and would rather than appear bigotted by admitting a triune god, lend her sanction to atheism, how would she not stare at being accused of polytheism, and of being a more ardent worshipper of idols than the ancient pagans, whose histories and allegories she considers as done away, and would never dream of the danger of their now making any converts; yet such is the fact, and with the exception

of giving their deities other names, the present race of men are warmer idolaters than were ever the back-sliding Jews or nations of old; and it is my intention to make this apparent in the instance of various modern deities, should my observations on that pre-eminent one, to which I now intend to confine myself, be admitted into your entertaining and instructive work: and first and foremost the goddess FASHION.

It is said to be a wise child that knows its own father, and this proverb holds more particularly good in the parentage of fashion; for though Novelty is looked upon as the *ostensible* father, yet it is more than doubtful whether Fancy, the mother, did not intrigue with Idleness, Apathy, Ennui, Eccentricity, and various other gallants: so that they may have each contributed in part to the deity in question; and this seems the more probable as she at different times assumes their several features, at different periods, and looks like her variously attributed sire; but genealogies, divine as well as human, can be but doubtfully traced, and supposition must too often assume the place of truth.

That she has not always held her present supreme power is well known (though to trace her in her rise and progress to sway would be difficult): that she is an usurper is equally so; but like all such characters, she has by various measures, at different intervals, so consolidated her power, and has now so many powerful engines to intimidate those who might be inclined to murmur at her decrees, that it is probable her government may endure, when many others, founded on better and milder principles, may fall.

Whilst she was not so well established upon her throne as she is at present, she is related to have had many different ministers, and amongst them the fair names of Good Sense, Convenience, &c. occasionally appear; but it is evident she only cajoled them to affirm her power, and now laughs at them for suffering themselves to be so severely duped, and having deprived them of the power

of hurting her, lets them roam at large, the derision of her subjects: she has now established the obsequious Folly for her permanent minister, and by her power of duty has rendered her prime agent invulnerable to any catastrophe, and though her existence has since been often attempted, and she has been very frequently shot at, she is found to be weapon-proof.

Fashion has evinced considerable art in the different steps she has taken to encrease her empire, and having like many earthly monarchs, waded through every devastation to obtain power, she has sought to increase it by alliance, knowing the weakness of the female sex, and their indescribable power over the male; she, like the subtil serpent of old, has first instilled her poison into their ear, well knowing that our modern Eves would not fail to communicate the infection to their Adams: nor in this did she calculate amiss; for the males more from the love they bore their better halves, than any idea of allegiance to the sovereign, consented to obey, and have, by degrees, become her willing and adoring slaves. At first, indeed, there was a great shade of difference in the men and women's worship; for whilst the latter knew no measures nor bounds to their devotion; nor thought any sacrifice too great for their zeal to make, the former, in some degree, consulted their own convenience, but led, step by step, like Solomon by the fair Egyptian, they now yield almost as willing an obedience as their tempters, the time appears not far distant, when they may perhaps exceed them in their devotion.

It has been observed by modern reasoners that all religions have had their martyrs, but what worship as had and *still has* more num rous ones than Fashion? have we not seen men forced into leathern inexpressibles, and women confined in stays, to tighten which it was necessary to recur to mechanical powers; and though there was a short space in which a contrary looseness prevailed, has it not operated to bring tightness back again into greater

favor, and do we not now see them laced and busked up to shew their shape at the greatest risque to their health and constitution; and what contrary feelings of pity, admiration, and even laughter, are excited on seeing the lovely sex in particular, waddling along in their wedges; and though they must suffer considerable restraint and even pain, yet irradiating their lovely countenances with a smile, and appearing well paid for their sufferings by the exclamations of what a fine shape! what an interesting, what an elegant creature! from their admiring swains.

As I before observed, the women carry their adoration to the greatest length; nor are the severest seasons sufficiently so to affright their tender frames. Muslin, damped, to assimilate more easily with their lovely limbs, arms exposed to the very pits to shew their every tournure; cases after the eastern mode to prop up and shew to advantage the bosom, (the greatest temptation of the sex;) foregoing the many advantages of pockets, and willingly burthened with their straw ridicules, that their forms may be less hid, and to give one arm an elegant position whilst with the other their *invisible* juppes are held up to display the elegantly turned ancle and taper leg, mounting to the fleshy calf veiled in coloured silk stocking with laced clocks, and whom the gallant Col. H—— might (enraptured with delight) follow for miles without thinking of fatigue. Thus thinly clad do our modern belles sally out to the worship of their beloved idol, defying the winter's cold and summer's heat. The advantage which we as men possess to see beauty thus *gratuitously* exposed and approximated to our view, is however very much balanced by the equal, if not greater exposure of those to whom nature has not been so bountiful; and if one moment offers to our view the swelling bosom and dimpled elbow, the next presents to us, the craggy neck, and skinny arm; and with the delicate leg, and gradually tapering waist, we have also the squabby frame, on which screwing makes scarcely an im-

pression, the stubborn limb and post thick ancle : thus we are alternately charmed, uncharmed, and charmed again.

The men on the contrary seem to think they cannot cover themselves too much ; never do they expose the arm uncovered, or the neck, the one propped up by a thick wadding, and wrapped round with more yards of muslin than would make a belle a robe ; the other covered by the shirt, the arm of the under waistcoat and often two coats in summer ; and in the driest weather you see them equipped with boots, and the leg further warmed by stockings and pantaloons beneath : the increase of heat seems but to increase their garments, and thus out they sally to *their* worship, with borrowed whiskers and pencilled eyebrows.

How heartily must the approach of night or rather the early hours of morning be welcomed by these self-made martyrs of the day, when the women throw aside their engines of torture, and the men their load of apparel for the easy coverings of repose: there I leave them with their goddess in sleep, if the uneasy slumberings of a tyrant may be so called, seizing with avidity this interval to murmur out my sentiments and detestation of absolute power, and to implore your aid against the usurper ; but I must hastily conclude for fear my whisperings should be heard by this wakeful sovereign, for then my age would not protect me, and hoping for a further consultation with you at another opportunity, I remain your's devotedly

SENEX.

3 o'clock in the morning.

THEATRICAL REVIEW.

Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri;
Quo me cunque rapit tempestas deferor *hospes.*

Lyceum.—The farce of "How to die for Love," originally produced for the benefit of Miss Kelly, is taken from one of the worst performances of Kotzebue, entitled the "Blind Geladin." Moderate as are the powers of our contemporary dramatists, there is not one of them who might not be ashamed of a production so totally destitute of ingenuity in the construction of its plot, and of vivacity in the composition of its dialogue. Captains Blumenfield and Thalwick are both in love with Charlotte, who, unable to determine between them, declares that they are to settle he matter between themselves, and that he who can persuade the other to give up the contest amicably shall receive her hand. The father makes the condition still more specific by assuring them that which ever can induce the other to overstep the boundaries of his estate, has won her. All the bustle therefore of the farce depends on the stratagem employed by the contending lovers to outwit each other. Blumenfield bribes Trap the servant of Thalwick to carry a letter to his master, purporting to have arrived by the mail from Thalwick's mother, whom it describes to be on her death-bed. Unfortunately, however, the old lady has been dead ten years, and Thalwick ridicules the clumsy artifice of his rival. In the mean time Thalwick gains over Trick the servant of Blumenfield,and having been informed by him that his master is dreadfully afraid of the plague, disguises him as a German doctor, and thus accompanied, appeals to him for the truth of a long story that he relates to Blumenfield, respecting the robbery of

a bale of goods, and the communication of the infection to the robber and his wife. Blumenfield *wittily* replies, "There is, alas! little doubt that we are both smitten with an infectious disease, but the Smyrna cotton is not the cause of it; it is a pair of fine eyes that has thrown us into a fever. Let your cabriolet be put up again, for by heaven if the plague stared me in the face I would not stir an inch. Try something else. Ha! ha! ha!"

Scarcely has Blumenfield made his exit before Thalwick is met by a bricklayer, who informs him that Captain Blumenfield has given him a purse of gold to set his brick-shed on fire. Blumenfield returns, and exhorts his friend to hasten to the relief of the suffering victims of conflagration, who live beyond the boundary. Thalwick answers, *with exquisite vivacity*, "I'll tell you what, Blumenfield, my heart, charitable as it is, is likewise on fire, and that's a flame that concerns me more nearly. I am sorry for your ducats, but if all the brick-sheds in the neighbourhood were on fire I would not stir. Ha! ha! ha!"

At the beginning of the third act, Thalwick and Charlotte are left *tete-à-tête*. Trick enters, and not perceiving Charlotte, informs him that his rival, Blumenfield, has run away with the young lady across the land-mark, and exhorts him to follow them. Blumenfield asks him if he saw them himself, and the subjoined questions and rejoinders, which afford a very favourable specimen of the dialogue, take place.

"With my own eyes, Sir, since you ordered me to become a spy, I see and spy every thing. Miss Altorf was taking a walk on the hill by the high road, the Captain lurking behind. Suddenly he rushed forward, carried the young lady into the carriage, and off they set as fast as the horses could trot.

"*Blum.* And of all this you were a quiet spectator.

"*Trick.* What was I to do? I hallowed out "Captain Thalwick! that's not fair," was going to seize the reins: but he so flourished his whip over my shoulders, that respect seized all my limbs. For heaven's sake, dear

Master, make haste. Be off instantly, there's not a moment to be lost.

" *Blum.* And did Charlotte make no resistance, did she not scream out?

" *Trick.* Not a sound or a sigh did she utter. Between ourselves, Sir, I think it was a preconcerted scheme.

" *Blum.* Is that true, Mis Altort?

" *Charlotte,* What! Trick, did I not scream?

" *Trick.* (*Staring at her with his mouth open*) I will not positively pretend to say. Let's see. Ah dear! now I recollect the young lady screamed out so dreadfully, that the Captain was obliged to drive her home again.

" *Charlotte.* Oh! he has brought me safe home again: has he? Thank you kindly, Mr. Trick. You see Captain Blumenfield, what it is to scream out lustily, &c. &c."

Blumenfield now takes his friend aside, assures him that he is resolved to return to his first love, a young, beautiful, and rich heiress, whose father, the only obstacle to their marriage, is lately dead, and requests the favor of Thalwick's company as far as the boundary. His friend appearing to acquiesce, he disguises Trap in his own habiliments; but Thalwick suspecting some stratagem, engages Trick to supply his place, and the two servants drive over the boundary together, while their masters each congratulating himself on the success of his stratagem encounter each other, are mutually undeceived, and enraged at their disappointment quarrel and fight. Thalwick fires and misses Blumenfield, who fires in his turn. Thalwick falls and exclaiming that he is dead, exhorts Blumenfield to escape. Blumenfield takes his advice and passes the boundary. Of course Thalwick is victorious, and it then appears that all this contest of artifice and stratagem was perfectly gratuitous, since Charlotte had all along given the preference to the successful rival. Thalwick and Charlotte are united, and the happy bridegroom expresses his confidence that he

" Shall living prove,
Joys earned by shewing, " how to die for love."

If this be a fair specimen of the German farce, as it is now exhibited to the theatrical spectators of Berlin and Vienna, we may congratulate the Kenneys and the Oultons on their evident superiority to their continental rivals. An English entertainment, however frivolous, inelegant, and insipid, does afford the auditors some idea of individual character, and recall to their observation the scenes and conversation of common life. The farce of "Hit or Miss," with no other merit contains a spirited satire on the passing foibles of the day, and exhibits in Dick Cypher a personage easily recognized, and of whom the most unobservant spectator can trace the resemblance. But in this abortive production there is neither character nor manners. Thalwick and Blumenfield are undistinguishable from each other but by their names; Trick and Trap, the two servants, have as strong a resemblance as their masters, and Charlotte, a young female without passions, or habits, or peculiarities. The dialogue might have been written for the puppets of a ventriloquist, and had the speeches of Thalwick and Trick been put into the mouths of Blumenfield and Trap, no one would have disputed the justice of the appropriation.

It gives us great pleasure to bear testimony to the continued improvement of Miss Kelly; a little more rouge, and a little more animation, would render her person attractive, and her acting excellent.

Before the appearance of our present number, Mrs. Siddons will have taken her farewell of a public, that has in her case, been amply repaid for whatever praise it has bestowed on her great and various excellence. Fame and fortune are the just rewards of talents so exalted, and perseverance so continued as those which have been displayed by this celebrated actress. For the love of money, apparently the only objection that her enemies are able to make against her private character, we do not blame her; the early experience of her profession must have taught her that transcendant talents, in depen-

dependence or indigence, are only the sources of misery and debasement. Had she been the first tragic actress of the age, but dependent on the managers, the respect of her superiors, and the subservience of her equals, would not have cheered her exit from the stage. Her prudence has secured her, in the decline of life, a retreat in which her talents obtain their appropriate homage, and they who admire the actress, are not ashamed to associate with the *woman*. To speak of Miss Smith as the successor of Mrs. Siddons, is the mere fatuity of venality. The individuals who endeavour to pay their court to that respectable actress, forget that by eulogiums so fulsome and extravagant, they betray the motives by which they are influenced. Miss Smith is with all her exertions and excellence a second rate performer compared with her to whom the English stage has owned no equal.

It is to be feared that the fortunes of the brother have declined in proportion to the successful progress of the sister, and that the share of John Kemble in Covent-Garden Theatre, has been partly sacrificed to the Equestrian Mania of the principal proprietor. We should be glad to hear that it was his intention to retire altogether, but if he resolved to turn a deaf ear to the advice of Horace " *Solve Senescentem, &c.* we shall be happy to witness his appearance on the boards of Drury.

W. N. Jones, Printer, No. 5, Newgate-street, London.

THE COW POX TRAGEDY
Scene the Last.

Pub by M Jones 5 Newgate St ... 1812

G. Cruikshank Sculpt